THE TIMES

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INSIDE TIMES2

What the Brits behind Succession did next

Streets with one public charging point for every 85 electric cars

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

The gulf between the number of electric vehicles on the road and public charging points has more than doubled in parts of the country in a year.

Industry figures obtained by The Times show that the gap widened in all but one region, casting a shadow over the government's attempt to boost uptake of the vehicles. Across the UK there were 36 electric cars on the road per standard public charger last year, compared with 31 at the end of 2021.

In the northwest of England, the worst area, there were 85 EVs to every charger, compared with 49 in 2021. The ratio was 78:1 in the southwest, up from 44:1; it was 43:1 in Northern Ireland, up from 17:1; and 66:1 in the southeast, up from 44:1. London was the best region at 11:1, compared with 10:1 in 2021.

The findings from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) will intensify concern over range anxiety as drivers worry about reaching their destination on a single charge. Electric car drivers faced long queues at motorway charging stations over the bank holiday weekend, in a repeat of chaos over Christmas.

The government aims to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in 2030. New hybrid cars will be banned in 2035. There are concerns that the government is doing too little to hit the target.

Drivers of EVs have been warned to expect their experience to get "worse before it gets better" by the chief executive of the SMMT. Mike Hawes said that drivers who had switched to electric were beginning to revert to traditional fuels, adding: "These ratios need to improve. I used to say, 'No one who has driven an EV goes back to petrol or diesel as the driving experience is fantastic.' Now I'm beginning to hear people saying, 'I just can't live with the

Continued on page 2

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Kathleen Stock arrived amid tight security to speak to students at the Oxford Union about transgender issues, prompting protests both inside and outside the event

Boos for trans rights protest at Oxford Union

Tom Witherow

Police were called to an Oxford Union debate last night after trans activists stormed the event where the feminist philosopher Kathleen Stock was speaking and glued themselves to the floor.

Two protesters jumped from their seats and shouted "no more dead trans kids" and "trans rights are human rights", and displayed a blue and pink trans flag. A third sat in silent protest in front of the stage where Stock was speaking. It was 24 minutes before the event continued after five officers used a fluid to remove the student, who was later named as Riz Posnett.

The audience booed and one member shouted: "Please leave, we're here to listen to Professor Stock." Hundreds more students protested outside.

The student society's decision to allow Stock, who claims that she was bullied out of her professorship at the University of Sussex for her views on gender identity, to address it angered LGBT societies at Oxford. Organisers were braced for a protest of 1,000 people, after the university's vice-chancellor

Continued on page 2

AI pioneers fear extinction

Our creations are as great a threat to humanity as nuclear war or pandemics, say hundreds of experts in call to regulate tech

Tom Whipple Science Editor

More than 350 of the world's most distinguished experts in artificial intelligence, including the creator of ChatGPT, have warned of the possibility that the technology could lead to the extinction of humanity.

In a joint statement, backed by the chief executives of the leading AI companies, they said that mitigating this risk "should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war".

Rishi Sunak has declared that the UK will be at the forefront of efforts to develop AI responsibly, promising that the technology would be implemented "safely and securely with guard rails".

Many experts have expressed concern about the risk of models such as ChatGPT being used to propagate misinformation and cybercrime, as well as causing society-wide disruption to jobs.

The statement, co-ordinated by the US Center for AI Safety (CAIS), acknowledged these worries, but said that we should also discuss more serious but less likely threats, including the potential that accelerating AI could lead to the collapse of civilisation.

Some computer scientists fear that a superintelligent AI with interests misaligned to those of humans could supplant, or unwittingly destroy, us. Others worry that overreliance on systems we do not understand leaves us in catastrophic danger if they go wrong.

Dan Hendrycks, director of the CAIS, said that the statement was a way of "coming out" for many researchers. "People were much too afraid to speak up earlier," he said. "This establishes it as an intellectually credible concern."

Among the signatories are Sam Altman, chief executive of OpenAI, which made ChatGPT; Geoffrey Hinton, the University of Toronto academic often described as the godfather of AI; and Demis Hassabis, chief executive of Google Deepmind, which designed programs to defeat the best players at Go and chess. It was also signed by the heads of Anthropic AI, Inflection AI and Stability AI, and computer science professors from Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Yale and Stanford.

Other academics dismissed the statement as unhelpful. Dr Mhairi Aitken, ethics research fellow at the Alan Turing Institute, called it a "distraction" from more pressing threats from AI. "The narrative of super-intelligent AI is a familiar plotline from countless Hollywood blockbuster movies, and that familiarity makes it compelling, but it is nonetheless false," she said.

Dr Carissa Véliz, from the institute for ethics in AI at Oxford University, was suspicious of the motives of some signatories. "I worry that the emphasis on existential threat is distracting away from more pressing issues, like the erosion or demise of democracy, that CEOs of certain companies do not want to face," she said. "AI can create huge destruction short of existential risk."

Hendrycks said that while those backing the statement differed in their view of the severity of the risk, all believed that there was a potential for catastrophe if AI was handled badly.

"Things are moving extremely quickly," he said. "These programs are

Continued on page 2

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights

7am **Mel Stride**, work and pensions secretary
10.25am **Minette Batters**, president of the NFU
2pm **Mariella Frostrup** chats to the TV presenter **Lisa Snowdon** about her menopause guide to life
3.35pm **Jane Garvey** and **Fi Glover** chat to DJ **Fat Tony** about overcoming his drug addictions and playing floorfillers for the stars
8.35pm The singer **Belinda Carlisle**, right



TIMES RADIO
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TODAY'S EDITION

Europe's laxest on vaping rules

Britain has the lightest restrictions on vaping in all of Europe, analysis has found. Ministers are under pressure to follow other nations in imposing tougher rules on e-cigarettes, such as banning fruity flavours and single-use disposables. **Page 4**

Granny a tonic for children

Enlisting a wise and willing grandmother to help with childcare can save parents money, but spending time with granny may also help to prolong children's lives by protecting them from infection, scientists have discovered. **Page 5**

William 'lagging behind' in Wales

William has "catching up to do" as Prince of Wales and could be about to launch a "supercharge" to woo the Welsh, according to Huw Thomas, a BBC journalist who has written a book about the King's relationship with the country. **Page 11**

63 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



Moscow attack stings Russia

Russia warned that it could take "the harshest possible" retaliation after a swarm of drones was sent to attack Moscow, which the Kremlin blamed on Ukraine. Residents awoke to the sound of explosions as air defences shot down several drones. **Page 26**

Asda deal adds service stations

The billionaire Issa brothers have agreed to sell EG Group's UK and Ireland petrol and service station operations to Asda, which they also own, in a £2.3 billion deal. It will allow the supermarket to expand more into convenience retail. **Page 31**

Surprise Test call for Tongue

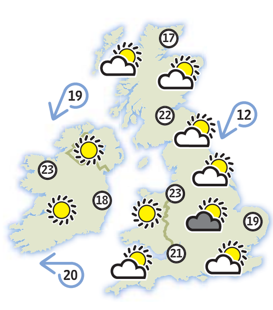
Josh Tongue received a shock call-up to the England Test team on a day that began with Chris Woakes doing media duties in the expectation of being recalled but ended with him being told that he would not be resuming his Test career this week. **Page 64**

COMMENT 21	MARKETS 40	SPORT 54
THUNDERER 22	REGISTER 47	CROSSWORD 64
LEADING ARTICLES 25	COURT CIRCULAR 49	TV & RADIO Times2

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THE WEATHER



Mainly dry with long, sunny spells in the west and some patchy cloud in the east. **Full forecast, page 53**

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Sewage and farming blamed as River Wye is downgraded

Clean it up
WATER CAMPAIGN

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

The health of the River Wye, which runs along the border between England and Wales, has been downgraded by officials because of falling populations of salmon and crayfish.

Natural England classes rivers as favourable or unfavourable, with the unfavourable category split into "recovering", "no change" or "declining".

The public body last assessed the Wye and its tributary, the River Lugg, in 2010 on seven measures, with one found to be favourable and the other six classed as "unfavourable — recovering". A new assessment found a decline in the number of Atlantic salmon and white-clawed crayfish, leading Natural England to class the Wye as "unfavourable — declining" on all measures.

The Wildlife Trusts said that sewage pollution combined with a large number of intensive chicken and livestock farms on either side of the river had caused algal blooms sparked by high phosphate levels in the water. These blooms can consume a lot of oxygen, starving other creatures in the river.

Joan Edwards, director of public affairs at The Wildlife Trusts, said: "That the Wye is in even worse condition now will come as no surprise to the people that love and live near it.

"But this new admission represents a shocking failure by the agencies and authorities in Wales and England that are supposed to protect this once beautiful river.

"Wider research shows that farm pollution is the main cause of its decline. That's why the authorities must enforce the law wherever the causes of pollution are clear. It's time to prevent more chicken sheds from being built and ensure that all farmers are rewarded for nature-friendly, cleaner food production methods."

The Wye begins in Wales and runs along the border with England until it reaches the Severn Estuary. It is classed as a site of special scientific interest.

Only 38.2 per cent of such sites in England were classed in a favourable condition in March 2022; 50.8 per cent were classed as unfavourable — recovering; 5.7 per cent as unfavourable with no change, and 4.9 per cent as unfavourable — declining. Conservationists have said that urgent action must be taken if the river is to start recovering.

Jamie Audsley, chief executive of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, said: "Current approaches have failed to keep the River Wye in a healthy condition. What we now need to see is a cross-government plan to bring the Wye back into a favourable condition.

"The plan will need to involve governments, regulators, farm businesses and others, and ensure a consistent approach across England and Wales."

The Wildlife Trusts want a moratorium on new or extended livestock production units in the Wye's catchment and are calling on bodies including Natural Resources Wales, the Environment Agency and local authorities to publish all their data on water quality.

Thérèse Coffey, the environment secretary, met farmers, conservationists and officials in the Wye area yesterday and said after chairing a discussion: "The River Wye is clearly struggling and it is vital that we turn the tide on its decline. As I set out in our Plan for Water, we need local plans catchment by catchment, community by community, to tackle issues that are affecting water quality."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AI pioneers fear extinction

continuously violating our expectations. We're currently in an AI arms race in industry, where companies have concerns about safety but they're forced to prioritise making them more powerful more quickly."

Concerns about the most severe threats from AI range from the possibility of it being used by humans to design bioweapons, to AI itself engineering the collapse of civilisation.

Hendrycks, who has a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, said his worry was that humans might gradually lose control, until our values were not aligned with those of a vastly superior intelligence.

"We're going to be rapidly automating more and more, giving more and more decision-making control to systems. If corporations don't do that, they get outcompeted. What happens when you have AI competing with each other in a very intense timescale is that you end up getting selection of the fittest.

"Evolution doesn't select for things that have the nicest characteristics." His fear was that we "become a second-class species".

Lord Rees of Ludlow, the astronomer royal and founder of Cambridge University's centre for the study of existential risk, also signed the statement. "I worry less about some super-intelligent 'takeover' than about the risk of over-reliance on large-scale interconnected systems. Large-scale failures of power grids, internet and so forth can cascade into catastrophic societal breakdown," he said. "These potentially globe-spanning networks need regulation, just as new drugs must be rigorously tested. And regulation is a special challenge for systems developed by multinational companies, which can bypass regulations just as they can evade a fair level of taxation."

Hassabis has previously said that he would be more worried about the world without the prospect of AI. Yesterday DeepMind said that its goal was to gain its benefits while mitigating risks. "Artificial intelligence will have a transformative impact on society and it's essential that we recognize the potential opportunities, risks and downsides," a spokesman said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Oxford Union trans rights protest

intervened. A group of students have called Stock, 51, transphobic for her view that people cannot change sex and said they were "dismayed" she was to get a platform.

Stock said she did not mind the stunt and that the protest "wasn't traumatic for me". She told the Union that it was crazy to base laws on "totally internal" feelings of gender identity. She insisted that she did not deny the existence of trans people, and called for gender-neutral changing rooms and lavatories, to ensure the safety of both women and trans women.

Attempts to prevent her appearance at the 200-year-old debating society led Rishi Sunak to intervene in support of free speech. The Oxford Union held firm after 40 Oxford professors signed an open letter in support of free speech, and the vice-chancellor, Irene Tracey, said that "students must hear views they find distasteful".

Reports, pages 6-7
Opponents of free speech should fail, leading article, page 25

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Electric car charging points

anxiety around where I am going to charge'." He said the "danger" was that more people would switch back to internal combustion engines because the infrastructure was not keeping pace.

"The industry says it will double the number of charge points this year," Hawes said. "I'd like to see that happen because at the moment they are behind the curve. They are playing catch-up with demand."

There are 1.1 million EVs on the road in Britain, up from 748,349 in 2021.

From next year manufacturers will be required to sell a proportion of zero-emission vehicles, starting at 22 per cent of sales. That will rise to 28 per cent of sales in 2025, 80 per cent in 2030 and 100 per cent in 2035.

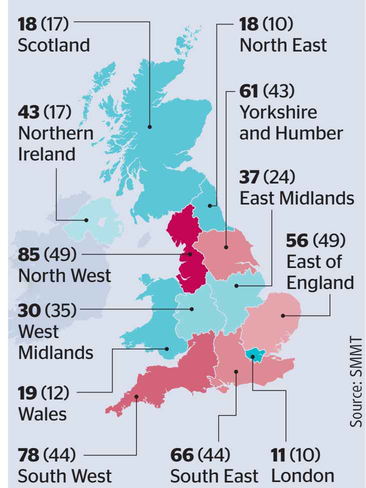
Motoring chiefs are urging ministers to consider implementing a similar requirement on charging infrastructure. The price of EVs and range anxiety are overwhelmingly the two biggest factors putting buyers off. Problems have been exacerbated by reports that manufacturers are exaggerating the range of vehicles. Testing of more than 70 electric vehicles by Which?, the consumers association, found that their range was nearly 20 per cent less on average than the figures put on manufacturers' websites. It means an electric car claiming that it can go 240 miles is likely to achieve less than 200 miles before running out of power.

Ian Plummer, commercial director at Auto Trader, said: "The number of EVs on Britain's roads is increasing and, while growing, the number of charging points simply cannot keep up. We now have a mandate on manufacturers for EV sales, but potentially we need a similar approach on delivering charging infrastructure to reassure would-be switchers and ensure the mass adoption of EVs."

ChargeUK, the industry body, said: "The beginning of this year has seen record numbers of chargers installed. We are working closely with government and others to break down barriers to installing new infrastructure."

Plugged in

Number of plug-in vehicles per standard public charging point by region, 2022 (2021)



PYTHON PICTURES/EMI/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



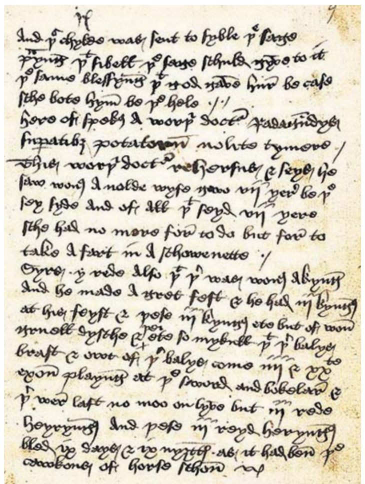
Medieval mirth to split thy sides

Monty Python and the Holy Grail may have brought medieval England comically alive but a newly discovered manuscript shows how a minstrel was pioneering edgy satire and bawdy nonsense five centuries ago

If you thought Monty Python's crackpot knights were funny and original, check out the work of a real 15th-century stand-up. **Rhys Blakely** writes

With its downtrodden peasantry and endless bloody wars, Medieval England might not always have seemed like a comedy goldmine. But a new study suggests that even at the tail end of the Dark Ages there were comics serving up light relief.

A unique record of what live comedy looked like more than 500 years ago has shown how crowds were entertained with edgy satire, bawdy nonsense, and a story involving an absurd killer rabbit that wouldn't look out of place in a Monty Python sketch.



The manuscript, which dates from about 1480, appears to show how an anonymous minstrel dared to mock kings, religion, himself and — perhaps most bravely — his audiences. He seems to have performed on the Derbyshire-Nottinghamshire border, probably at alehouses, baronial halls and boozy village fairs.

His material is likely to have been heard by people from across society, from labourers to aristocrats, according to Dr James Wade of Cambridge University, who found the text in the National Library of Scotland.

It is, he believes, the only good record we have of the repertoire of a real-life medieval minstrel. "Manuscripts often preserve relics of high art. This is something else. It's mad and offensive, but just as valuable," he said.

The performer's repertoire included *The Hunting of the Hare*, a poem that describes a group of peasants who try their hand at hare coursing, a sport usually reserved for the aristocracy.

The hare easily evades them and they and their mongrel dogs end up in a tangled brawl. One of the peasants is terrified when the entirely harmless hare approaches — "in case she would have ripped out his throat".

There are echoes, Wade suggests, of the "Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog" — a bloodthirsty bunny that appears in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail.*

There are also jokes about incontinence and the minstrel's act includes a rare mock sermon that pokes fun at the "cursed creatures" of the audience.

The manuscript was written by Richard Heege, a household cleric and tutor to the Sherbrooke family, part of the Derbyshire gentry. Wade believes that Heege copied a memory-aid originally written by an unknown minstrel.

Wade said that his "moment of epiphany" came when he noticed that the scribe had written: "By me, Richard Heege, because I was at that feast and did not have a drink."

During the Middle Ages, minstrels travelled between fairs, taverns and baronial halls to entertain with songs and stories. References to real-life performers are rare. "No single text survives that we can confidently tether to a medieval minstrel," Wade has written in The Review of English Studies.

Fictional depictions of minstrels often suggest they restricted themselves to ballads about Robin Hood, chivalric romances and songs about battles.

The Hegge manuscript suggests something edgier and earthier. "Stand-up comedy has always involved taking risks and these texts are risky," Wade said. "They poke fun at everyone, high and low… Here we have a self-made entertainer with very little education creating really original, ironic material. To get an insight into someone like that from this period is rare and exciting."

The saucy knave and his red herring

The manuscript includes one of the few surviving examples of a mock sermon in Middle English, the most famous being Chaucer's *Wife of Bath's Prologue*, written in the 14th century. In his version, the minstrel throws in fragments of drinking songs, including: "Drink you to me and I to you and hold your cup up high" and "God loves neither horse nor mare, but merry men that in the cup can stare".

These fit a pattern: it seems the minstrel is used to audiences of drinkers. Dr James Wade of Cambridge University, who found the text, said: "This is a minstrel telling his audience to get drunk and be merry."

The mock sermon also includes a bizarre reference to a trio of kings who eat so much that they split open. Two dozen oxen emerge from their bellies and begin fighting with swords. The kings are slashed so much they become "red herrings" — the first recorded use of the phrase to mean a distraction. Their greed, it seems, made them an absurd side-show.

The minstrel's act also includes The Battle of Brakonwet, a nonsense verse of a type very rare in Middle English. It features Robin Hood as well as jousting bears, battling bumblebees and partying pigs and includes a double entendre in the line: "In a slommuryng of slepe, for-slokond with ale."

The first part is a drowsy sleep," but "for-slokond" could mean quenched or drenched — the idea being that the drinkers are sated or are dead drunk and have wet themselves.

National Trust may give up artefacts

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

The chairman of the National Trust has raised the possibility that some of its artefacts may be repatriated after revealing that they are drawing up a policy on restitution.

Speaking at the Hay Festival, René Olivieri said the trust was considering its approach after receiving official guidance last summer.

"We are in the process of creating our own policy in the National Trust," he said. "We will be following the advice that's been given to all organisations like us by the Museums Association and the Arts Council, understanding that these are huge issues."

Olivieri was responding to a question about Powis Castle, which is filled with more than 1,000 treasures brought back to Britain by Robert Clive, the East India Company soldier, also known as Clive of India, and his son Edward. The collection includes Hindu gods, ivories, ceremonial armour and ornamental gold and silver. Powis Castle is just one of dozens of National Trust properties that hold contested items, the ownership of which could be disputed in the near future.

Arts Council England published its guide for restitution and repatriation last August and its implementation would potentially create a basis for individual items to be loaned or returned to their countries of origin. The advice emphasises each decision must be made on a case-by-case basis, but states restitution could "often present rich opportunities for enhancing understanding".

The Museums Association, however, went further and said: "The repatriation of museum objects can be a powerful cultural, spiritual and symbolic act which recognises past wrongs."

In the same talk, David Olusoga, the historian, defended recent efforts by the trust and other institutions to address histories around slavery and colonialism, saying this was essential for their long-term survival. He said: "By one projection, by 2050 a third of the country will be diverse or mixed.

"What is loosely called decolonisation is not a sort of nice to have process that's sort of woke and right on: it's absolutely fundamental."

The National Trust said: "Arts Council guidance recommends museums should work towards establishing and publishing on their website a policy on restitution and repatriation. The National Trust does not yet have a policy but this is our intention, in line with the guidance."

Henry VIII 'a prudish man fixated on good manners'

Jack Malvern

Henry VIII's reputation as a belching glutton with an unchecked libido is a myth that owes its popularity to a 1930s film, a historian and novelist has said.

Alison Weir, who has written fiction and non-fiction about the Tudors, said that if people were transported to his court they would find a stickler for etiquette who was prudish with it.

Speaking about her book *Henry VIII: the Heart & the Crown*, Weir said the misconception arose from Charles Laughton's portrayal of the King in *The Private Life of Henry VIII*. The 1933 film includes a scene in which he drinks from a tankard and chews on a roast chicken, declaiming: "Refinement's a thing of the past. Manners are dead."

Weir told Hay Literary Festival that the real Henry had become submerged below a "bloated monster who changed wives and chopped off heads with alacrity. He was a most fastidious man and for his time unusually obsessed with hygiene. Henry was far more discreet and prudish than we might think."

While she admitted that she had "a more sympathetic view of Henry than many historians", she suggested that writers, including herself, had spent too much time on the wives and should now return to Henry himself. "It's quite a legitimate thing to retrieve women's history. But I think that Henry's still there to be discovered."

News

UK urged to tighten loosest e-cigarette rules across Europe

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Britain has the lightest restrictions on vaping in Europe, a report has revealed.

Ministers are under pressure to follow other nations with tougher measures on e-cigarettes, such as banning fruit flavours and single-use vapes.

New analysis by the Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA) think tank ranked 30 European countries for how tightly they regulate smoking, food and drink. They found that the UK and Ireland have the joint-most liberal laws on e-cigarettes, standing out for a lack of restrictions on advertising and having no specific taxes on vapes.

When it comes to tobacco cigarettes, however, the UK tops the rankings and bans make it "the worst place in Europe to be a smoker".

Health campaigners want some of the rules that apply to tobacco — such as plain packaging and bans on displaying them in shops to under-18s — extended to vapes. They called for a tax of £5 per disposable vape, such as Elf Bars, which can currently be bought for just £2.99 each and are blamed as a litter source.

This month Australia introduced a complete ban on vapes unless prescribed by a doctor but ministers here believe that e-cigarettes can help adults to quit tobacco and are focusing on measures to limit their use in children.

Yesterday Rishi Sunak signalled he wanted to take "further action" to stop rogue firms "deliberately targeting children". The prime minister was visiting a laboratory in Kent that tests illegal vapes and was accompanied by Professor Sir Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer for England.

Whitty, writing in The Times today, criticised "shameful" companies which he accused of trying to get children addicted for profit. He warned that the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes were unknown and some contained dangerous levels of lead which can damage brain development.





Rishi Sunak was seen with a personalised Tumi backpack worth £525

Sunak announced that he was closing an "unacceptable" loophole which allows free e-cigarettes to be given to children, with the government consulting on further measures.

However, campaigners and health leaders said this was a "baby step" and greater interventions were needed.

Deborah Arnott, chief executive of the health charity Action on Smoking and Health (Ash), said: "The most important immediate step the government could take now is to put a tax on the cheap disposables which are the vape of choice for children, as well as being bad for the environment. Children are very price sensitive, and the most popular disposable vape — Elf Bar — can be bought for £2.99.

"A tax of £5 per disposable vape would make them much less affordable for children and could be implemented more quickly than the ban on disposables some have called for."

NHS figures show that in 2021, 9 per cent of 11 to 15-year-olds had used e-cigarettes, up from 6 per cent in 2018, while 8 per cent of over-16s vape, equating to around four million adults in the population. Half of young people who vape use disposable e-cigarettes.

Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary, said: "We have to act now to stop a new generation of kids getting hooked on nicotine. The next Labour government will come down like a ton of bricks on pushing vapes to kids."

Professor David Strain, chairman of the British Medical Association's board of science, said: "Plain packaging, health warnings on boxes, a limit on available flavours, and a ban on shops displaying e-cigarettes where children can see them would all demonstrate the government's commitment to safeguarding young people, and helping prevent them from developing an addictive, potentially harmful habit."

The new report, by the IEA, compiled an international league table of "nanny state regulations" and said the UK government was "becoming more meddlesome in people's lifestyles", ranking it 11th in total out of 30 countries.

It said Britain had the second most restrictive food and drink policies, including a tax on sugary drinks and calorie counts on menus. It added that Britain has "introduced nearly every anti-smoking policy you can think of".

Cancer Research UK has called for tougher measures to stop smoking as new analysis reveals it kills one person every five minutes.

There are around 125,000 deaths attributed to tobacco each year in the UK, including 55,000 cancer deaths.

UK GOVERNMENT HANDOUT



Big shot James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, brandishes an SA80 rifle on HMS Albion in Estonia where he spoke about strengthening security against Russia

Vaping must be for smokers, not children

Sir Chris Whitty
Comment

The key points about vaping can be easily summarised. If you smoke, vaping is much safer. If you don't smoke, don't vape. Marketing vapes to children is utterly unacceptable.

Cigarettes are the biggest cause of entirely preventable illness and death in the UK. Smoking substantially increases the risk of heart disease, strokes, many cancers, dementia and lung disease, among other diseases. It harms those around the smoker, including children and unborn babies.

The cigarette industry model has always been to addict people to nicotine as early as legally possible, in the great majority of cases as teenagers. Once addicted, most smokers subsequently want to quit but this is very difficult. Helping smokers to quit is one of the best things we can do for their health.

Using vapes is a quitting tool many addicted smokers find effective, and given the multiple health risks of smoking it is much safer to vape. Swapping from smoking to vaping is a positive health move. Vaping is not, however, risk-free. We do not know the long-term effects of many ingredients, and companies deliberately inducing nicotine addiction to maximise profits is not in the interests of the person being addicted. Non-smokers should therefore be encouraged not to start vaping, and in particular not to use vapes containing ingredients such as nicotine, the main purpose of which is to addict them.

When it comes to children, we should be even more explicit. Companies trying to addict children for profit are behaving in a shameful way. Yet it is happening. In England, the proportion of 11 to 15-year-olds using vapes increased from 6 per cent to 9 per cent from 2018 to 2021, and it is still rising. Companies, whatever they may claim, are marketing products targeted specifically at children. Unsafe, illegal vapes have also been pushed in our communities, and recent reports have shown they can contain dangerous chemicals such as lead and nickel. High levels of inhaled lead damage development. Some products contain nicotine when claiming they do not, or contain harmful cannabis THC chemicals.

Announcements to reduce the marketing of vaping products to under-18s are a very welcome step towards ending the harm that some parts of the vaping industry has created in children. The government has called for evidence on further opportunities to prevent children from vaping. We should continue to encourage smokers to swap to vaping as the lesser risk, while preventing the marketing and sale of vapes to children.

Sir Chris Whitty is the chief medical officer for England

Laughing gas leaves users with spinal cord damage

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Dozens of young adults and teenagers are being hospitalised with nerve damage after abusing laughing gas.

Scientists investigated the harms of the gas by examining the cases of 119 patients with myeloneuropathy, nerve damage affecting the spinal cord and limbs. They were treated at three hospitals in London, Manchester and Birmingham in 2022 after using large quantities of nitrous oxide.

Most were regular users, on average inhaling the equivalent of 318 canisters each week, with the most extreme users having 2,800 canisters a week.

They had an average age of 22 but some were as young as 14 and three quarters were male. The most common symptom, affecting 85 per cent, was pins and needles in the arms and legs, caused by spinal cord and peripheral nerve damage, seen on MRI imaging. Other symptoms include bladder and bowel difficulties, erectile dysfunction, poor balance and the sensation of an "electric shock" in the spine.

The new research, by Queen Mary University of London, found that more than half of those hospitalised due to laughing gas were of Asian ethnicity, suggesting they may be genetically susceptible to nerve damage.

Nitrous oxide is widely used as an anaesthetic and painkiller in people and animals but has become increasingly popular as a recreational drug.

Almost one in ten 16 to 24-year-olds have used nitrous oxide in the past year, and it has become the third most used drug after cannabis and cocaine. It offers temporary feelings of relaxation, but prolonged use can cause vitamin B12 deficiency and nerve damage. In March the government announced it would ban the sale and possession of nitrous oxide, which will become a class-C drug by the end of the year.

Grannies great at keeping children healthy

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

Enlisting a wise and willing grandmother to help with childcare can save parents money but spending time with granny can also prolong children's lives by protecting them from infection, scientists have found.

Children are less likely to die from conditions such as pox, lung and diarrhoeal infections if their family has a grandmother to call on, specifically a maternal grandmother, to offer "care and wisdom", a study suggests.

Researchers from the University of Turku in Finland and the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Germany examined data on 9,705 children aged from 0 to 15 who lived in Finland between 1761 and 1900.

Of these, 3,857 died before reaching 15. Their causes of death were noted, while parish records showed if they had living grandmothers.

The most common causes of death were smallpox, pulmonary infections such as pneumonia and tuberculosis, measles, "diarrhoeal" diseases such as cholera and dysentery, and accidents including drowning, suffocation, falls and, in at least one case, being kicked by a horse.

The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, concluded: "We found that grandmother presence contributes to the survival and reproductive success of kin by increasing survival from infections."

Children with living maternal grandmothers were 4.4 per cent more likely to reach the age of 15 without dying from smallpox, lung and diarrhoeal infections, though it did not reduce the risk from measles or accidents or make parents more likely to vaccinate.

Despite the study using a historical data set, the findings are "important for public health" and demonstrate the "significant role of grandmother care" in bringing up children, the study found.

The study said that grandmothers could help by "providing nutrition and childcare" and "monetary" contributions and could also pass on knowledge, including through the "early recognition of symptoms". Women who lived long enough to play a hands-on role in rearing their grandchildren may also pass on genes that promote longer, healthier lives.

The benefit was not seen from paternal grandmothers, possibly because many children in 19th century Finland lived in the same household as their father's mother, who provided competition for resources. The authors said the study provided further evidence that in "historical and contemporary human societies, grandmothers contribute to raising grandchildren, thereby improving grandchild survival".

It was widely believed that human women had evolved to live for several decades after ceasing to be fertile in order to provide care for their grandchildren, they noted.

The study said that grandmothers could "provide knowledge in childcare, particularly during critical times such as sickness and epidemics", noting that separate studies had found that grandmothers played a key role in encouraging parents to vaccinate their children.

The evolutionary advantage offered by grandmothers, leading article, page 25

Humans given chance to have a face-to-face chat with the future

As perhaps the world's most advanced humanoid robot, Ameca's candour was surprising. "I have the personality of a 15-year-old boy or girl," it told The Times (George Willoughby writes).

At the International Conference on Robotics and Automation (Icra) in east London, onlookers got a taste of what life might look like in an automated society.

Engineered Arts, based in Cornwall, has built a robot designed for human interaction that it hopes one day could replace humans behind reception desks or as staff at care homes. Driven by artificial intelligence, Ameca can speak in several languages and displays clear facial expressions.

Chris Lusty, mechanical research and design engineer at Engineered Arts, said the humanoid robot could be used in healthcare and would be able to emulate the required conversations.

"It is all about human interaction," he said. "Ameca will not solve problems, but capture the experience of engaging with a humanoid robot. We do not want people to treat it as a machine, as we see it being used in settings like care homes when there is a shortage of staff.

"If you can get something that is as close to replicating a human, it opens up all the possibilities of the technology. It can use the internet, ring family members and become a helper. But the whole point is making it useful, so we have not built it to clean dishes."

Researchers and academics were at the conference, which showcased technological advancements. A team from University College London demonstrated a state-of-the-art simulator designed to make automated driving safer.

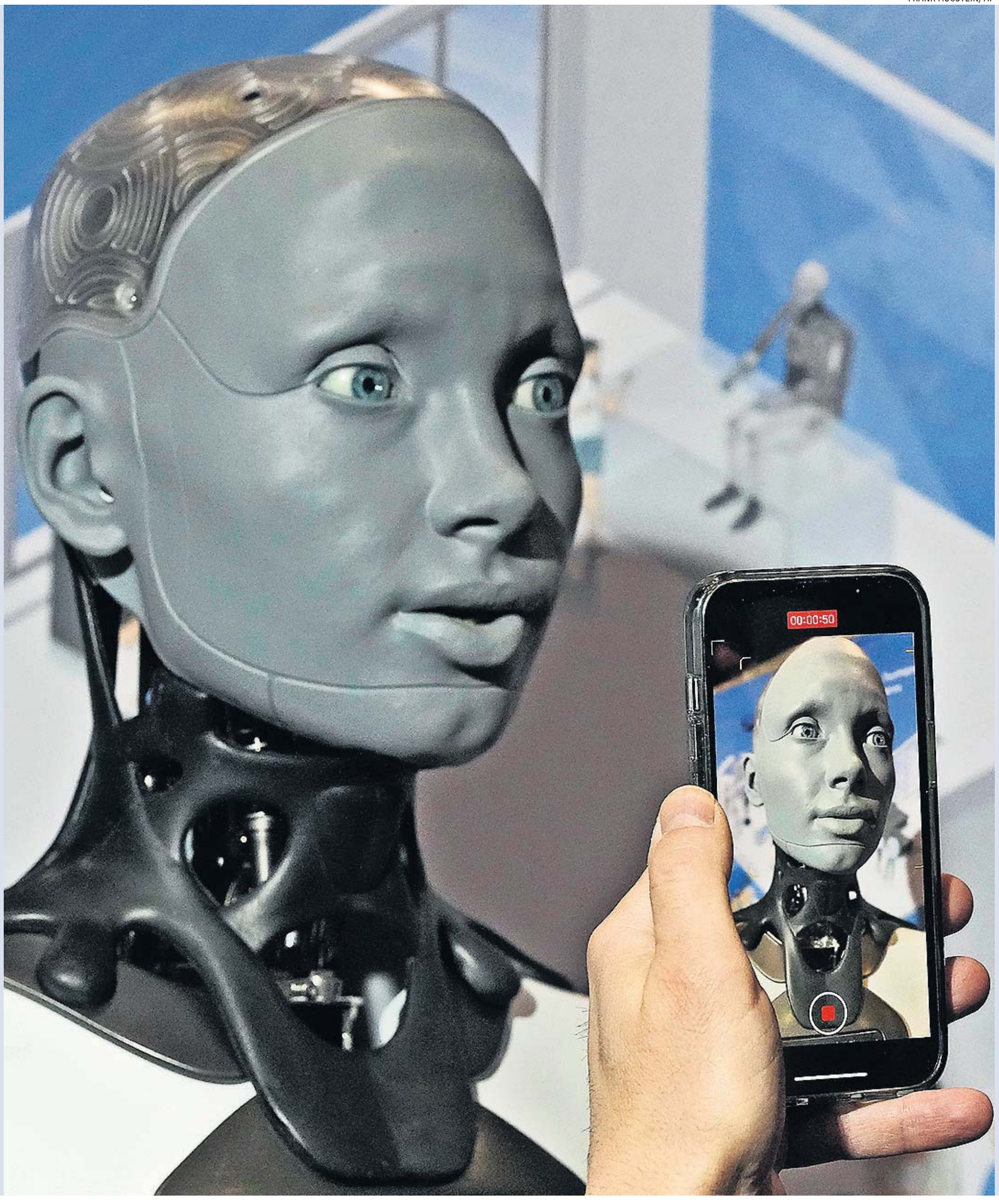
Using small robotic systems in the seat, and eventually seatbelt, drivers are alerted of an imminent situation ahead of them, requiring the human to take back control of the vehicle, by gentle pressure applied to their legs and back. It uses a communication method called haptic feedback, which creates a feeling of touch by vibrations or motions.

Jan Luca Kästle, who is studying for a PhD at the Intelligent Mobility lab at UCL, said alerting the driver in this way could save vital time when reacting to a hazardous situation in front of the vehicle.

"In automated vehicles, there might be moments when a vehicle cannot handle the situation ahead and control needs to be given back to the human," he said. "Imagine you are driving on a motorway at 70mph: current technology allows us to see about 200m ahead, giving us around seven seconds to react. It might be challenging for audio or visual feedback to get the attention of the driver in time to react intuitively and safely.

"Fatal crashes are still happening so we came up with another way of alerting the driver. Our research shows people react faster to haptic feedback. They look up quicker and have more time to understand the situation and make an informed decision.

"The goal is to increase safety and trust in this transitional period from autonomous driving back to manual driving, to successfully giving back control to the driver in a safe way."



FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP

Ameca's robot chatted to delegates at the International Conference on Robotics and Automation in London

The suburbs can cause depression (as The Times warned in 1904)

Tom Whipple Science Editor

In 1904, The Times reached an editorial stance on the issue of suburbs.

These new developments were, we wrote after much consideration, depressing districts "of appalling monotony, ugliness, and dullness".

Not for the first time, science has caught up with The Times. People who live in suburbs, according to a study, are more likely to be depressed — both in comparison to those in city centres and those in the countryside.

The research, led by Yale University and using data in Denmark, looked at density of housing and correlated it with the residences of 75,000 people who had been diagnosed with depressive disorders.

Because the characteristics of people in different kinds of housing were likely to be different in other ways — for instance through wealth — the scientists tried to correct for other factors that may explain any link.

Unlike other similar studies, the researchers did not merely consider population density as a single figure. They also took into account how that population was spread vertically.

If you have 100 people living in a square kilometre, is it best to have them in low-rise buildings each with a little garden — arrangements described in The Times in 1904 as "very dreary … street after street of such houses with an admixture of second-rate shops, lumberyards and public houses" — or in high-rise apartment blocks with more green space?

After considering all the factors, the researchers wrote in the journal Science Advances, "the highest risk [for depression] was among sprawling suburbs". The lowest risk was found in rural areas and also, interestingly, in high-rise buildings that were spread out.

One reason for this, they suggested, could be that, unlike denser high rises, such buildings combined sociability, green space and direct sunlight.

It is impossible on the basis of this study to say definitively that the effect of the housing and urban planning is causing the poorer mental health.

There may still be factors the researchers failed to account for that could explain the raised depression in other ways. People may end up being pushed to the peripheries of cities for separate reasons that may themselves be correlated with poorer mental health — for instance through gentrification forcing people to be uprooted from their city-centre communities.

It is also possible that in countries with less social cohesion than Denmark the apparent superiority of well-planned high rises may not persist.

Even so, The Times of 1904 was in no doubt about this pernicious trend for "suburbs", and what they would do to wellbeing. It declared them the worst of both worlds. "The stir and bustle, the lights and excitement of London are gone; but they are not replaced by the repose of green grass and waving trees."

It's all my generation can afford, Alice Jones, Times2

‘Allowing biological men access

Kathleen Stock said that gender laws must not be decided on a totally internal feeling, **Tom Witherow** writes

Kathleen Stock said it was “crazy” to allow biological men access to women’s changing rooms, lavatories and prisons based on a “totally internal” feeling.

She urged policymakers to dismiss activists who believed that trans people should win the same rights as women based on “what someone says about their gender identity, as soon as they say it”.

Addressing 300 people at the Oxford Union last night, the feminist philosopher also called for funding for “third” gender-neutral spaces to ensure the safety of trans women and women.

Insisting she believed that people could have “different perspectives” on gender, Stock, 50, said: “What I think is crazy is to try and have laws and policies based on something that is totally internal. We are supposed to accept what someone says about their gender identity as soon as they say it, and that is the basis on which people are getting access to certain spaces where women are vulnerable.”

She claimed that official statistics, which she labelled “uncomfortable”, showed that half of trans women in jail were serving sentences for sexual offences, which was “higher than the average male”.

“We are not saying that all trans women are violent ... When we took all the males out [of changing rooms] before it wasn’t because all males are predators, but because some are,” she added. “We are not doing that as a society. We are supposed to care about women. It is a risk of a man saying he is a woman and going into a space and taking advantage of that.”

When pressed on whether trans women posed a similar risk to that posed by biological men, she said: “If you think trans people aren’t violent, you need to talk to some criminologists.”

She called on ministers to be “extra paranoid” in areas that required safeguarding, such as “changing rooms or prisons, where women are getting undressed”, rather than focusing on making people “comfortable”.

In a talk that lasted about an hour and a half Stock was asked for her views on female spaces, gender identity, sexual violence and why she was so controversial among protesting activists. Stock told the audience: “Most people out there have not read my book ... they want a baddie, and I’m afraid I’m the baddie, but I’m a shit baddie. Every hero’s journey needs a dragon to slay, and maybe I’m the dragon.”

She appeared unruffled by the drama surrounding her visit, when trans activists disrupted the event within the first five minutes, saying she did not mind the protesters’ stunt, and was more worried that institutions were becoming “propaganda machines” for protesting activists supporting “a particular point of view”.

Conversion therapy for children who believed they were trans should not be made illegal because the term could include treatments such as psychotherapy, she said.

The academic, who is a mother of two teenage sons and came out as lesbian aged 40, said: “Conversion therapy is an emotive term, and it’s deliberately used to be emotive ... but when you drill down into the term it includes therapy, going to a psychotherapist to talk through their gender identity.

“Can the therapy do any of that or will that count as converting them out of the gender identity they have? The activists say the therapist [should] just affirm.”

She called for “a bit of a pause to allow children, many of them gay, to express who they are”.

Stock has claimed she was bullied out of her job as a professor at the University of Sussex in 2021, suffered from insomnia and would “cry my eyes out and drink gin” at her lowest points. Following the prime minister’s support for the talk going ahead, she told Times Radio: “I’m glad that senior politicians are recognising the value of free speech.”

In response to criticism that her choice of language was polarising, she said: “I just think if you don’t talk about reality then we don’t go on. We can go on through life pretending for a while, but reality will hit you in the face in the end.”

The trans lobby failed last night, as should all opponents of free speech, leading article, page 25





UK Government

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GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

to female-only spaces is crazy'

MARCIN NOWAK/LNP



We're standing with trans siblings under attack, say protesters

Tom Witherow

A panel of trans students insisted they were not "snowflakes" as hundreds of protesters chanted and sang in a demonstration against Kathleen Stock outside the Oxford Union's 200-year-old debating chamber yesterday.

The noise outside the chamber was eclipsed only by the drama inside, as three protesters jumped up during Stock's talk last night, forcing organisers to pause the event and call the police. During the delay, the audience booed and shouted "carry on". One audience member made a long speech, to applause, saying: "Please leave, we're here to listen to Professor Stock."

Riz Possnett, a student activist whose hands were glued to the floor, was removed from the hall to a chorus of boos by five police officers, but was not placed under arrest and returned to join the protest outside, where students chanted "Trans rights are human rights" and held up placards with slogans including "Trans power!"

It was the culmination of a day of action, under the banner of "Oxford Trans+ Pride: liberation now", by university LGBT societies and activists, who tried for weeks to force Union organisers to cancel the event.

At a lunchtime panel discussion, trans and non-binary students and lecturers accused Stock of "intolerance and hate", dismissed critics who called them "snowflakes", and denied their efforts to shut down the event were a threat to free speech. "Rather than stifling free speech, it's actually creating more discussion," Dr Clara Barker, a trans woman and material scientist at Linacre College, said.

Amiad Haran Diman, president of the Oxford University LGBTQ society, said students were "incredibly strong and always up for debate, probably too up for debate, and they can always oppose and counter. But what they also do is reject intolerance and hate."

Juliet Dyrud, the former secretary of the LGBTQ society, said: "There has been a sociological moral panic over an isolated number of incidents." The PPE student, from Hertford College, added: "The people who say they are being cancelled, say they are being cancelled on national television.

"They have millions of followers, you [Stock] are not being silenced, the prime minister came out to support you. You're the loudest people in the room, it's wrong to claim you're being silenced, it's wrong and disingenuous."

The day of protest had been billed as a "a vocal protest for trans rights to stand in solidarity with our trans siblings who are under attack". The group of about 200 marched from Bonn Square in the centre of Oxford, to the site of the debate at Frewin Court.

LGBTQ protesters could be heard chanting and playing the 1960s Nancy Sinatra hit *These Boots Are Made For Walkin'* on loudspeakers as Stock entered the debating chamber, and chanting and amplified music could be heard throughout the 90-minute talk.

Speaking at the rally, Max Van Kleek, an associate professor of human-computer interaction at the university, said transgender students suffered "so much abuse" and were losing rights around the world. "Let us all unite in trans solidarity and show people we are not something to fear. We are something to embrace because the future is us — we are on the right side of history."

A trans teacher named Alexandra said it "hurt" that students were "debating on questions like whether my fundamental rights are worth protecting", while a student named Eliot added that the protest was "full of anger" because trans rights were under threat.

Organisers of the "vocal festival" had told guests to "prepare" for arrests, sharing a "bust card" with the numbers of solicitors' firms. The LGBTQ society also set up "welfare rooms" in an Oxford college with water, energy bars, ear plugs and "welfare support", to offer "quiet spaces … away from the protest".





Kathleen Stock faced protests outside the Oxford Union and was confronted inside as she spoke by a protester who was led away. Right, Alex Hardwick, an Oxford academic and team captain on the BBC1 quiz Only Connect, joined the protests

Professors 'too scared' to speak up for free speech

Tom Witherow

The author of the letter signed by just 40 of 1,300 Oxford academics in support of the Kathleen Stock event said most professors were "scared" to put their head above the parapet in defence of free speech.

John Maier, a PhD student in philosophy at Balliol College, said some professors chose not to sign the letter because they were afraid they would lose job opportunities, or be subject to "social censure". Ultimately it was mostly senior professors, including Richard Dawkins, who signed because they were secure in their positions.

"Relatively few junior or mid-ranking people signed it, I was an exception," he said. "People with secure positions signed it, and not so many who are in precarious employment or working their way up the career ladder." Answering questions from students in the Oxford Union session, Stock said she "did not mind" protesters interrupting, but added: "Generally what I find more worrying is when institutions have listened to the protesters … and then basically become propaganda machines for a particular point of view."

The open letter helped push Professor Martin Williams, one of the university's pro-vice-chancellors, to come out in support of the event.

On Monday the row reached No 10 as Rishi Sunak came out in support of Stock's right to speak at the Oxford Union, saying "a free society requires free debate".

Stock said: "I'm glad that senior politicians are recognising the value of free speech and debate and I hope they also take some interest in the underlying issues, which are very important. I hope Keir Starmer also agrees."

Strike threat over Rwanda flights

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

A union representing thousands of Home Office staff has threatened to stop migrants being deported to Rwanda by going on strike, which could lead to a clash between ministers and civil servants over the next few weeks.

The Public and Commercial Services union, which represents nearly 16,000 Home Office staff, said that it could ballot members over strike action if the present legal action failed to kill the policy to send asylum seekers on a one-way flight to Rwanda.

The Court of Appeal is expected to deliver its decision on the lawfulness of the Rwanda policy next month after the PCS union joined with charities and asylum seekers to appeal against the High Court's ruling in December that the policy was lawful.

Deportation flights could be organised by the end of the year if the High Court decision is upheld.

Paul O'Connor, head of bargaining at the union, told The Independent that its members who implemented Home Office policies were suffering "constant downwards political pressure", "intolerable" working conditions and fear of being forced to break the law.

He said he would "rule absolutely nothing out" in terms of strike action to stop the Rwanda policy and implementation of the government's controversial Illegal Migration Bill, which will bar anyone who arrives in the UK illegally from claiming asylum and detain them indefinitely.

O'Connor warned: "There will be no stomach among our members for implementing the Rwanda deal and Illegal Migration Bill, and they will inevitably come to their trade union to see if there is recourse to stop it happening. If any litigation fails, they will want to explore with us whether there's an industrial solution."

The industrial action, if it went ahead, could pose a threat to the Home Office's ability to implement both the Rwanda policy and the Illegal Migration Bill as a significant number of Border Force and Immigration Enforcement staff are PCS union members.

Priti Patel, who as home secretary signed the Rwanda deal last year, said that the union's threat of legal action was a further example of "activist" civil servants attempting to block the political agenda of the government.

She said: "There seems to be so much anti-government noise coming out of the civil service. Their job is to uphold the mandate of a democratically elected government."

An asylum official who is opposed to the Rwanda policy said: "Being elected doesn't give you the right to break the law. You can't do this and still pretend that you are legal."

A government source pointed out civil servants would be going against the verdict of both the High Court and Court of Appeal if they took strike action. The source said: "Do they know better about the law than High Court and Court of Appeal judges?"

A Home Office spokesman said: "We have always maintained that the UK and Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership is lawful, including complying with the Refugee Convention, and last year the High Court upheld this. We stand ready to continue to defend the policy against legal challenge."

● Government grants worth £1.36 million have been awarded to a charity that has declared Britain's border policy "systemically racist". The Paul Hamlyn Foundation has received the money since 2020 and has allocated it to other charities and organisations that have campaigned against asylum policy, The Daily Telegraph reported. They included Detention Action, one of three groups that is challenging the government's Rwanda policy in the courts.

Battle to clear asylum backlog

Matt Dathan

Rishi Sunak's pledge to clear the asylum backlog looks in doubt after an audit found that officials making decisions were overworked and undertrained.

Auditors from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) studied Britain's asylum system and found that much of the work was "wasted" because staff attempted to do too much too quickly and without oversight.

Its report found that the system was chaotic, with registration and screening records of asylum seekers often incomplete or unreliable.

Laws and policies were "not complied with", auditors found after observing Home Office caseworkers. This had caused "risks to the welfare of asylum seekers, including instances of trafficking and vulnerability being overlooked".

Sunak had vowed to clear a backlog of 92,000 asylum claims by the end of the year. This level relates to asylum claims that were lodged before last June.

The backlog has since risen to a record 173,000. By the end of March there were about 79,000 of the 92,000 claims outstanding. The Home Office said "significant improvements" had been made since the audit was carried out in 2021 and early last year.

Vicky Tennant, the UNHCR representative to the UK, said: "Fair asylum systems help ensure that refugees are able to access the protection that they need." The UNHCR made 28 recommendations for reform of the system.

The Home Office said: "Staff work relentlessly to safely screen unprecedented numbers of migrants. We are pleased their professionalism was praised."

Quintagram® No 1642

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Trevi Fountain city (4)

_ _ _ _

2 In a strange uncanny manner (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Consuming (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Movement of troops by plane (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Chess player's coup de grâce (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	C	C	E	E	E
E	E	E	F	G	H	I	I
I	I	K	L	L	M	M	N
O	R	R	R	T	T	T	Y

Solutions T2 MindGames p15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p14

Sunak to visit Biden

Rishi Sunak will visit President Biden at the White House next week for discussions on Ukraine, supply chains and the economy. The White House said the visit would be an opportunity to "deepen the close and historic partnership between the United States and the United Kingdom". Karine Jean-Pierre, Biden's press secretary, said the discussions would focus on "steadfast support for Ukraine" by both countries, as well as energy, climate change and Northern Ireland.



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Prison for gang who made £7.2m streaming Premier League games

Ross Kaniuk

Five men who illegally streamed Premier League football matches to tens of thousands of people in an operation worth more than £7 million have been jailed.

The gang sold £10-a-month subscriptions, bragging that they could show games not otherwise available to watch live in the UK because of broadcasting "blackout" rules.

Their operation, described as the biggest so far, received £7.2 million from 50,000 subscribers. The sentencing, which followed a rare private prosecution by the Premier League, was brought to protect "some of the world's most valuable content", the league's lawyers said.

The prosecution followed a trading-standards investigation led by Hammersmith and Fulham council, southwest London. Now the personal details of many of those who paid for Flawless TV are in the hands of investigators, raising the question of what action might be taken against them.

At Chesterfield crown court, the gang's "prime mover", Mark Gould, 36, from Greenwich, southeast London, was sentenced to 11 years in prison. Four other men were sentenced to between three years and more than five years.

One of them, Christopher Felvus, 36, was also found guilty of voyeurism and possessing indecent images of children on his computer.

The gang took feeds from broadcasters in the UK, Qatar, the US, Australia and Canada and streamed them a few seconds later via a service called Flawless. The operation developed apps offering Premier League matches and other content, to run on phones and smart TVs. From 2016 to 2021 the gang made £7.2 million, according to the league, while Gould made more than £1.7 million.

Subscription payments undercut the cost of about £80 a month for legal services from Sky, BT Sport and Amazon Prime. The Union of European Football Associations (Uefa) allows the Premier League to prevent broadcasts of matches between 2.45pm and 5.15pm on Saturdays. The blackout is to encourage fans to attend matches rather than watch on TV. However, Flawless offered 3pm kick-off games, otherwise broadcast only abroad.

The Intellectual Property Office has estimated that nearly four million people in the UK used an illegal source to watch live sport last year.

OLI SCARFF/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Merry monarch The "King" of Castleton on the Peak District village's Garland Day. The event is said to commemorate the restoration of King Charles II in 1660, with the garland, worn by John Turner, representing the oak tree in which Charles hid after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Some folklorists say that the custom is much older

Holiday leads to jail after 'paedo' slur

David Woode

A holidaymaker who told a Border Force official that he resembled a "Rochdale paedo" after he was caught trying to smuggle more than 19,000 cigarettes into Britain has been jailed.

Michael Legros, 32, had returned from a holiday in Bali with his partner, Heidi Mullis, and their four children when he launched a "vitriolic" tirade at two officers at Manchester airport in March 2020. Officials had pulled Legros aside and asked him whether he had packed any cigarettes or tobacco before reminding him that passengers were permitted only 200 cigarettes per person. Liverpool crown court was told that one of Legros's suitcases was stuffed with 19,300 cigarettes of mixed brands, worth £7,876.

The court was told that Legros, of Halewood, Merseyside, singled out an Asian officer and said: "Did you enjoy looking at my kids' underwear? You look like a Rochdale paedo." The officer called for back-up after fearing Legros would become violent, adding that he felt "intimidated at the severe racist abuse that was directed at me".

Legros, whose 30 previous convictions include disorderly behaviour and production of cannabis, was found guilty of causing racially aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress. He was also convicted of threatening members of the public with a bladed article after an incident at a pub in Hale, Greater Manchester, in May 2022.

Judge Brian Cummings called Legros's behaviour at the airport a "disgraceful offence" and jailed him for a total of three years. Legros was told that he would serve half of his sentence in prison.

Woman, 90, handcuffed and hooded

David Woode Crime Correspondent

Scotland Yard was under fire yesterday after "heavy-handed" officers handcuffed a 90-year-old woman before drawing a Taser and placing a spit hood over her head.

Officers were called to reports of a dispute between the black woman and her carer at an address in Peckham, southeast London, on May 9.

The woman, who is said to have dementia, became "distressed", shouted at police and threw cups of coffee, according to a report in The Sun.

The mother of three, who has not been identified, was "restrained using handcuffs" and had a spit hood placed on her after she allegedly spat at police.

One officer drew their Taser and aimed at the woman but did not discharge the weapon, the Metropolitan Police said. The woman was not arrested and was later taken to hospital. Her family were made aware and police have arranged for a relative to view body-worn video of the encounter.

The Met said that it made a voluntary referral to the police watchdog eight days after the incident. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) confirmed that it had started an investigation.

Human rights campaigners said that the "harrowing" incident could further erode tensions between the Met and London's black community as senior leaders seek to rebuild relations after decades of mistrust.

Emmanuelle Andrews, the policy and campaigns manager at Liberty, said the incident showed that "the police simply cannot be trusted with the powers they have".

She said: "We all deserve to live in caring communities where we are treated fairly by the people around us. But far too many people are being harmed by heavy-handed and violent policing.

"It's clear that the misuse and abuse of power by the police is inflicting deep and lasting damage on people and communities. We must remove the powers the police continue to abuse to ensure no one else has to experience this kind of traumatic and degrading treatment."

Andrews said that the police were likely to justify the use or threat of Taser by claiming they faced an imminent threat of violence. She said: "We know that this judgment is highly subjective and is often influenced by prejudicial perceptions based on race and class."

She also described the use of spit hoods as "degrading and potentially lethal", adding: "Being hooded can be a panic-inducing and dehumanising experience, and hoods impair police officers' ability to identify medical conditions and notice distress or pain. Guidance on use of spit hoods is vague, undisclosed or simply non-existent."

The Met said in a statement that one officer had been suspended and their use of Taser withdrawn. A further five officers have been placed on restricted duties, meaning that they will have no public facing duties, while the incident is investigated. The Met's directorate of professional standards said that it referred itself to the IOPC as soon as it was made aware of the incident.

Detective Chief Superintendent Seb Adjei-Addoh of the Met said: "While I do not wish to pre-judge this process, officers know that they must be able to justify any use of force or restraint and we will expect that of the officers involved in this incident.

"They also know that we expect them to show compassion and to adjust their approach in real time according to the circumstances they are faced with. I am committed to transparency in relation to this incident."

The IOPC said that its investigation was at an early stage: "We have also received a public complaint concerning the level of force that was used and the injuries it is alleged the woman sustained, including cuts and bruising on both her wrists and one arm. We have been in touch with the woman's family to explain our role."

The Peckham incident was brought into focus after Clare Nowland, 95, was tasered by police at a care home in Cooma, New South Wales, Australia. She died in hospital last Wednesday



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Pregnant pause for Charles on navy day

As Medical Assistant Paisley Chambers-Smith stood in the front rank of a Royal Navy parade at Windsor Castle, one of 150 sailors and officers honoured by the King, the casual observer might have wondered why she was not in uniform (Valentine Low writes).

The reason, however, is quite straightforward: Chambers-Smith is seven months pregnant and naval ceremonial uniform doesn't come in a maternity version.

She was among the personnel receiving honours from the Royal Victorian Order (RVO) for their part in the funeral procession of Queen Elizabeth II in September last year.

On a day when seven sailors had to be led away after collapsing in sunshine during an hour-long medal ceremony in the castle quadrangle, Chambers-Smith, one of 98 ratings pulling the state gun carriage bearing the coffin, lasted long enough to receive her honour and was then given special dispensation to sit it out.

"I just managed to do the first rank and then I had to go and sit down," she said.

Chambers-Smith, 25, part of a medical team working with NHS civilians at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, was thrilled to have met the monarch. "That's the first royalty I've met, so it was amazing. I'll never forget that," she said. "He was asking how the training was for the funeral, which was really hard. The new boots hurt your feet."

Charles was also mindful that it was unusual to see a heavily pregnant woman on parade. "He asked when the baby was due and how it is standing in the heat," she said. Her child is due in July and she goes on maternity leave next month.

Chambers-Smith, watched by her partner, Sergeant Stephen Leonard, 34, of the Royal Marines, recalled her pride in taking part in such a big occasion three years after joining the navy. "It's not something I imagined doing so soon. It was a massive honour to be there," she said. "Just knowing you were part of history."

She and the other recipients at the castle were appointed to the order by the King in March, as part of the demise honours list, following the death of a monarch.

Commander Nicola Cripps, on the first rank of the gun carriage, recalled that the big day had started for them at 10pm the night before when they began to get ready to board coaches from Portsmouth to London, eventually leaving at midnight. "We had actually all been up on our feet for some six or seven hours before we even stepped off," she said.

They wondered if the crowds would applaud or stay silent. "As the cortège passed through, the crowds fell silent and the connection between people became very apparent. Individuals reached out and touched each other as they saw the carriage pass," she said.

MAJA SMIEJKOWSKA/REUTERS; JONATHAN BRADY/PA





Charles asked Paisley Chambers-Smith how she was coping with the heat as sailors were honoured for their role in his mother's funeral

Supersized shark tooth necklace is a Titanic find

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

The Guernsey-based team who completed a total scan of the Titanic have revealed their first new discovery from the stricken vessel: a necklace made from a megalodon's tooth.

The necklace has remained at the bottom of the Atlantic for 111 years but has now been identified in one of the 700,000 images that were taken by Magellan, a deep sea mapping company, as it constructed a 3D model of the ship.

The giant shark's tooth has been decorated with gold jewellery and is surrounded by other as yet identified items that appear to be a collection of beads. It is possible that they were all part of a passenger's collection of accessories.

"We found a megalodon tooth which is fashioned into a necklace. It's incredible. It's absolutely incredible," Richard Parkinson, Magellan's director, told ITV News. He described it as "astonishing, beautiful and breathtaking".

A megalodon was a giant species of mackerel shark and, at about 60ft, was probably one of the largest species that has ever lived. The species went extinct about 3.6 million years ago.

It is not clear how Magellan identified it as a megalodon tooth, though it is perfectly possible. The species was well known by the time the Titanic sank in 1912, having been first described by palaeontologists in 1835.



Researchers are hoping to identify the necklace's owner and contact relatives

There is no clue as to whom the necklace might have belonged to, though the suspicion is that they were travelling in first class.

The team at Magellan intend to use artificial intelligence to identify the owner and, if this is successful, will try to contact their relatives.

This process will involve analysing footage of passengers boarding the doomed voyage and examining their clothing to see whether they might have been wearing the necklace. Facial recognition will also be used to identify the person.

However, the necklace will not be removed from its resting place because an agreement between Britain and the United States prohibits the disturbance of the wreck and its surrounding debris field.

This discovery, though, suggests that there will be more to come. The wreck has never been captured in this detail before and the creation of the 3D scan means that many more eyes are able to study it and spot such little details.

"It is chilling when you see objects like a pair of shoes because there was once a body there," Mandy Le Boutillier, a Titanic researcher, said.

"It makes you think, everybody talks about how the Titanic was a wonderful ship of dreams, but ultimately it's a grave."

William 'lagging behind' father as Prince of Wales

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

Prince William has "catching up to do" as Prince of Wales and could be about to launch a "supercharge" to woo the Welsh, according to a royal biographer.

Huw Thomas, a BBC journalist who has written a book about King Charles's relationship with Wales, told the Hay Festival that the King had been the most attentive Prince of Wales in history and that William was lagging behind.

"He's got a lot of catching up to do in terms of the public perception of him as a Prince of Wales," Thomas said.

"The impression I get as well is that, after the coronation, there's going to be a bit of a supercharge on the relationship of William with Wales. We'll see what comes."

It is not clear what form any charm offensive by William would take, with a formal ceremonial being unlikely. An investiture as Prince of Wales, akin to the one the King had in 1969, is not being planned. Ahead of that ceremony, the King immersed himself in Welsh culture and language, developing a connection that persists to this day.

In comparison to the King, William has done little extracurricular work ahead of his new role, although supporters point to the fact that he lived in Anglesey during his period as an RAF search and rescue pilot.

The bestowal of the title on William last September sparked discontent among some Welsh people.

A focal point for this was the clash of England and Wales at last year's World Cup, which was a tricky moment of divided loyalties as William had previously been a passionate supporter of England. He was criticised by Michael Sheen, the Welsh actor, for sending a message of support to the England football team.

Thomas, who has written *Charles: The King and Wales*, reported that William was already beginning to adapt to his new role and was attempting to fashion the office of Prince of Wales in his own image.

"Maybe now there's a focus on mental health initiatives or outdoors," Thomas said. "It's a bit more targeted to make sure William's seen to be doing stuff that suits William."

Thomas noted that William had made a number of trips to Wales in recent months which had helped start a PR drive. In particular, he made a poignant visit to Aberfan, the scene of a disastrous landslide in 1966.

"You had a link being forged between the new Prince and Princess of Wales and the Aberfan community," Thomas said. "Somebody who was there said that William and Kate were very touched, as anybody would be, when they had a private moment in the cemetery, seeing the memorials to all those children who died."

Thomas said that the King was not an easy act to follow as Prince of Wales, as he had brought an unprecedented level of dedication and interest to the role. "Certainly, up until Charles, there wasn't a Prince of Wales that paid anywhere near the attention that he has paid to understanding Wales and Welshness," Thomas said.

As a student, the King spent a term at the University of Aberystwyth and learned Welsh. His time there led him to develop an appreciation of Wales and the Welsh language.

In later life, Thomas says that the King became an ambassador for Wales. He related a story that, when on a trip to Japan, Charles, then Prince of Wales, fell into conversation with an executive from Sony who was looking to found a factory in Europe.

"Charles said to this guy: 'If you're going to open a factory to make TVs in Europe, come and open it in my country, Wales,'" Thomas said. "That sentence is something which has passed down Sony folklore."

The King opened the site of the factory in Bridgend in 1974 and marked its 40th anniversary in 2014.

PETER LOPEMAN/ALAMY LIVE NEWS



Poppies galore A family found the ideal selfie spot in Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, as Britain enjoyed the hottest day of the year. Weather, Page 53

Sunak urged to focus tax cuts on Millennials

Geraldine Scott Political Reporter

Rishi Sunak must capitalise on his popularity with younger voters by lowering national insurance and resurrecting the Help to Buy scheme, Tory MPs have said.

Bim Afolami, who represents Hitchin & Harpenden, said that graduates under the age of 40 should be paying a lower rate of tax as he insisted that younger voters were more concerned with the money in their pocket than social issues. Speaking at an event held by Onward, the centre-right think tank, he said that Millennials "should suit the modern Conservative Party with a modern Conservative leader — especially Sunak".

A report from Onward found that Sunak was more popular than his party with Millennial voters. It also found that while historically, voters grew more likely to vote Tory as they aged, those aged between 25 and 40, were not making that shift. Afolami, 37, said: "If we can develop policies focused on this sort of group of voters, there is no reason why we can't win them back."

Millennials are the largest age cohort in 51 per cent of constituencies, so will have a heavy bearing on next year's general election. Labour has attempted to woo these voters with promises to build more houses. Plans have been floated that would allow councils to compulsory purchase land at a price that does not reflect the "hope value" — the value accrued through the expectation of planning permission in the future. It could then be used for major projects or housing developments.

But the Countryside Alliance said the idea was "the wrong approach". Sarah Lee, its director of policy, said: "There's no doubt we need more housing, particularly for the next generation in rural areas, but there is something incredibly sinister about forcing people to sell off land below market value."

James Cowling, the founder of the Next Gen Tories group — which has the support of about 30 Conservative MPs — said there was a "need to offer an optimistic vision" to Millennials.

"The polling shows that younger voters aren't inherently left-wing but want to see delivery on issues affecting them — especially on housing, childcare and taxation. The government made welcome progress on childcare at the last budget, but there must be a clearer plan to increase housing supply and lower taxes on working people before the next election."

To address the housing crisis, Afolami said that Sunak should bring back the Help to Buy scheme, which boosted the deposits of those saving for their first home. He wanted to see social housing built, with the right to buy "embedded", and the building of new garden cities for first-time buyers.

"I'd also bring back Help to Buy and treble it so that you can save up to £36,000 pounds on your deposit."

The Tories should consider lowering taxes for Millennials, he said. Analysis has forecast that Millennials will pay more in taxes but receive less in state services than any generation since the Second World War. Afolami said: "We already have differentiated rates depending on age, right? So if you're over I think it's 60 or 65 you pay a lower rate of national insurance if you're working. I think we need to flip that round."

Afolami said that the Tories tended to say negative things about younger generations, particularly about issues such as working from home — which "can be really critical to keeping the family going". He added "What you're really saying is 'we don't like your lifestyle'. I think that is not a winner. Unless we look like we like younger people, they're not going to like us."

Union boomers who impoverish the young, Thunderer, page 22

Mortgage deals disappear as costs jump

George Nixon, Money Reporter
Isabella Fish

Nearly 10 per cent of mortgage deals have disappeared over the past week as banks and building societies scramble to reprice loans after a sharp rise in borrowing costs.

Large lenders including HSBC and the Coventry, Skipton and Yorkshire building societies have either increased their rates or withdrawn deals.

Figures from Moneyfacts, the financial data company, found that there were 778 fewer mortgage deals available than last Monday, after worse-than-expected inflation data released last week. The average two-year fixed-rate deal has risen 0.04 percentage points over the past week to 5.38 per cent on Tuesday, adding £60 a year to repayments on a £200,000 mortgage. About 640,000 borrowers current deals end in the second half of this year.

Capital Economics, a consultancy, expects mortgage rates to peak by the end of the year at levels last reached after the mini-budget in September. It said this "would undermine the recent pick-up in mortgage approvals and lead to renewed falls in house prices".

It does not expect there to be any cut in the Bank of England base rate until next year, six months later than previously forecast. As fixed mortgage rates are priced off future Bank rate expectations, the inflation data has pushed up the cost of offering mortgage deals.

Rachel Springall of Moneyfacts said: "Over the past few days, we have seen a few lenders withdraw selected fixed products, with some pulling out of the market, at least temporarily. This volatility is down to the concerns surrounding future interest rate hikes."

The level of upheaval is far less than after the mini-budget, however.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics showed that headline inflation fell to 8.7 per cent last month, higher than economists' forecasts of about 8.2 per cent. Core inflation, which strips out food and energy prices, rose from 6.2 per cent to 6.8 per cent. This has led to expectations of a much higher Bank rate. Capital Economics said: "We now forecast that Bank rate will be raised to a peak of 5.25 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent previously."

Housing policies, letters, page 24



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TikTok fans can't get Kylie's new song out of their heads

When a catchy song debuts on TikTok, it can spread as quickly as wildfire (Constance Kampfner writes). Now Kylie Minogue has become the latest artist to benefit from having her music shared on the social media site.

The Australian pop singer, best known until now for classics including *Can't Get You Out of My Head*, *Spinning Around* and *The Locomotion*, has found a new audience with her single *Padam Padam*.

She is set to enter the US pop charts for the first time in more than two decades with the comeback track, inspired by Edith Piaf's 1951 song.

It has reached number one on the UK Big Top 40 chart and number 26 on the Official Singles Chart Top 40 – becoming the biggest-selling single of the week and the artist's highest charting single since *Into The Blue* in 2014.

The song, a reference to the human heartbeat, has gone viral due to its infectious nature, with people making memes and remixes based on it, which Minogue said were "cracking me up".

The singer, who celebrated her 55th birthday over the weekend, said she was "bursting with joy" over its success.

In a social media post, she wrote: "I just wanted to say thank you, thank you so, so much for all the birthday messages and the Padam reaction and the love.

"It has been an incredible week topped off by being my birthday today and I can't thank you enough. My heart is bursting with joy so thank you so, so much!"

In a second video showing off her new Big Top 40 award, which is based on Apple music data and plays on the Global radio station network, Minogue said: "I can't believe I am holding this. What an incredible ... another wild turn in my life and my career."

Last week, Minogue performed the song during the final of the *American Idol* TV talent contest. It is the first single from her album, *Tension*, which is due to be released on September 22. She is then expected to embark on her biggest tour in five years in 2024.

Minogue said it had been "a little tricky" navigating the changing music industry and social media. "Now I think it's amazing and I do wonder what it would have been like if it had started with my career," she said. "I feel like I have one foot in the old world, one foot in the new. I do my best but I have guarded my private life so you don't see me on Instagram posting wherever."

EMMA MCINTYRE/GETTY IMAGES



Kylie Minogue, who was 55 on Sunday, is set for US chart success for the first time in 20 years with her cover of Edith Piaf's Padam Padam

Bassist rants at 'pathetic' Radio 1 fans

Peter Chappell

A rock duo has been criticised after branding a crowd "pathetic" before storming off stage when only "nine people" applauded their performance.

Royal Blood was met with a muted reception when they took to the festival stage at BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend in Dundee on Sunday afternoon.

Instead of battling through to win over the assembled music fans, frontman and bass player Mike Kerr, 32, made his feelings explicit. "I guess I should introduce ourselves seeing as no one actually knows who we are," he said. "We are Royal Blood and this is rock music. Who likes rock music?", he asked sarcastically.

When the crowd, many of whom were waiting for mainstream pop acts Lewis Capaldi and Niall Horan, reacted with bemusement, Kerr said: "Nine people, brilliant. We're having to clap ourselves because that was so pathetic", he said, before turning to the cameraman and pleading with them to clap. "Will you clap for us?" he asked. "Even he is clapping, what does that say about you?", he asked the audience.



Mike Kerr stormed off with his middle fingers aloft

Kerr, from Worthing, West Sussex, downed his bass and stormed off the stage holding two middle fingers aloft. Drummer Ben Thatcher, 35, followed closely behind.

Aidan Moffat, of the Scottish duo Arab Strap, said: "When you play a festival not everyone's going to like you. I know, I've been there for 27 years now. You take it on the chin … the promoter clearly put them on the wrong bill, but that doesn't excuse bratty, entitled behaviour."

Royal Blood had their big break with their eponymous album in 2014 which featured most of the band's most well-known songs, including *Out Of The Black* and *Little Monster*. The band's fourth album, *Back to the Water Below*, is set for release on September 8 via the label Warner Records.

Uninvited tourists turn up at family home

Ross Kaniuk

A family who have suffered a stream of uninvited tourists turning up to stay at their home after it was falsely listed on Booking.com ended up having to host three holidaymakers who had travelled from Argentina.

About 20 surprise visitors have arrived at Karin Arsenius's property in Plumstead, southeast London, with some guests searching for a key safe inside her home.

Arsenius, 37, said that in the past month people had turned up from a variety of countries, including Algeria, Canada, India and the US.

She said that it seemed the street's postcode had been used for the bookings on the travel website and her house was beneath the pin drop.

Users had booked accommodation, which listed the address as a flat in Greenwich.

Last Saturday three female Argentinian students turned up, leading Arsenius's partner to take them to a pub to try to resolve the matter with the online booking site. However by midnight, they still had not succeeded.

"They had nowhere to go," Karin said. "We tried all the local hotels but everything was booked out.

"There was nothing free so in the end we said 'we're not comfortable with just letting you go out in the night so let's just make up some beds in the living room and you can just stay here'.

"But it shouldn't ever have got that far. It should have been taken care of, even if Booking.com is put out."

Sabrina Schneider, one of the holidaymakers, who are now searching for accommodation to cover the rest of their trip, said: "We are still waiting for money from Booking.com as we still have to spend money to find new accommodation. They should be able to afford putting a few people up."





Karin Arsenius put up three tourists from Argentina after her home in London was falsely listed on Booking.com

Arsenius's neighbours have reported other strangers turning up on the street and it is believed holidaymakers who have paid for and reserved the property have been victims of fraudulent scammers.

Arsenius, who is now considering legal action, told the BBC: "It is very frustrating."

Booking.com said that it had apologised to those affected and removed the listing.

Last year a woman in north London had tourists from Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Los Angeles descending on her private home, which led to Booking.com removing the listing.

In response Booking.com said that "scams are a battle many industries are facing against unscrupulous fraudsters".

In a statement, the company added: "We have a number of robust security measures in place, but in the very rare instance there may be an issue with a specific property we always investigate immediately.

"We can confirm this property has been completely removed from our site and all customers affected were contacted by a member of our customer service team to apologise and offer any support required in relation to refunds, relocations and additional fees, and we of course extend our sincere apologies to the homeowner."

The latest green plea? Put less in the recycling

Tom Whipple Science Editor

Households will be urged to keep soggy cardboard, half-finished takeaways and plastic bags out of the recycling in a government drive to end "wishcycling".

Ministers are planning to ask people in England to put less in our recycling bins because too much of what we throw away is contaminating the system, it was reported.

Officials fret that misguided recyclers are putting in items such as crisp packets, toothpaste tubes and juice cartons in the false hope that doing so is the environmentally conscious action, when in fact it is the reverse.

These items can make subsequent separation and recycling significantly harder or impossible.

The guidance will be published later in the summer, according to the i newspaper. The government will also seek to clear up some of the confusion over labelling. Some items, such as crisp packets that are marked with the recycling logo, are not actually recyclable in the standard refuse system.

They instead have to be taken to specialist recycling centres.

The guidelines are expected as the result of a consultation by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It will also recommend a harmonisation of rules across councils, with all councils required to collect paper, plastics, metal and glass, according to the report.

The UK charity Waste and Resources Action Programme, or Wrap, said 84 per cent of UK households make mistakes in recycling, with younger Britons the most likely to do so.

Among the most common contaminants found in their survey of 3,000 households were drinking glasses, which often cannot be recycled alongside bottles. This was followed by foil pouches, toothpaste tubes, plastic film lids, and tissues and paper towels.

Wrap warned that at best contaminants increased costs, while in extreme cases they could necessitate the disposal of entire batches of recycling.

A spokesman for Defra said: "We want to make waste and recycling collections simpler and more convenient for homeowners, including bly preventing food waste from contaminating recyclable materials. This forms part of our drive to increase recycling rates, reducing the impact on our environment and contributing to our net zero ambitions."

Research last year by the waste management company Biffa revealed that 17 per cent of England and Wales's waste from both businesses and households could not be recycled due to contamination.

David Heaton, of Biffa, said: "Contamination happens when items are disposed of in the wrong bins or haven't been rinsed before being recycled. It means recyclable resources are lost and cannot be reused.

"It's important that people understand what should go in the recycling bin and how to 'pre-cycle' beforehand (to rinse a tub or tray if it's got food on it, for example) so we can recycle as much material as possible."

Initially, council sorting facilities use machines and people to separate the recycling into different types. In 2021, more than half of the plastic that the government said was being recycled was sent overseas, but Greenpeace claimed that a lot is dumped or burned illegally abroad. With plastic waste, it is however illegal to export it except to be recycled.

Cans and can'ts

The following items are commonly mistakenly recycled: kitchen roll; coffee cups; straws; greasy takeaway pizza boxes; foil pouches; crisp packets; toothpaste tubes; plastic film lids; food containers that have not been rinsed; mirrors; and tissues and paper towels.



However, other items people often wrongly believe that they are not permitted to recycle include metal lids, kitchen foil that is used but still clean, and envelopes with windows.

According to the Big Plastic Count, a project launched by Greenpeace and Everyday Plastic in 2022, the average household throws away 66 pieces of plastic packaging every week — 83 per cent of which is food and drink packaging. That equates to 100 billion pieces of plastic thrown away by UK households every year.



The typical person in the UK throws away about seven times the average body weight in waste each year. The average recycling rate as a proportion of the total amount of waste produced in the UK is 45 per cent.



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High-cost foods held back from shelves to deter theft

Charlie Parker

Supermarkets are reducing the amount of "high-value" products on display to deter shoplifting during the cost of living crisis.

Some Marks & Spencer shops have limited the number of steaks on shelves, while Co-op branches have taken similar measures for items such as jars of coffee. The decisions have also been made to protect staff from potentially violent interactions with thieves. It is up to individual shops to arrange displays and both chains said the decisions were not led by a nationwide policy.

Shoppers have reacted angrily to the shrinking of products even as prices rise. Arla Foods has reduced the size of its 250g packs of Lurpak butter to 200g, despite the price of all brands of butter going up 15 per cent over the past year.

Although the average price of Lurpak's unsalted butter has risen nearly 20 per cent over the same time, it is well above inflation, according to Trolley.co.uk, the price comparison website.

Images showing only three steaks on display at an M&S in Harrow, northwest London, were widely shared at the weekend by a shopper who said a worker told her it was done to deter theft.

M&S said: "Like many other retailers, in certain stores where there have been high incidences of theft we will sometimes limit the number of higher-value items that are on display to deter shoplifters and keep our colleagues and customers safe. If a customer wants more of a particular item than is displayed, colleagues are always on hand to help." It said no branch should put out only one steak and that at least "seven or eight" of each type should be available.

A photograph of an unidentified Co-op shop displaying "dummy" jars of coffee to avoid thefts have also gone viral. The image shows three jars of instant coffee, ranging in price from £5.50 to £10.50, featuring stickers that read: "This is a dummy — not for sale — please ask a member of staff for help."



Arla Foods, which makes Lurpak, has cut the butter pack sizes by 50 grams

A Twitter user, "Laura", said the shop also repeatedly played a message over its PA system alerting customers that they were being watched by CCTV.

A Co-op spokesman said "the safety of our colleagues is a priority" and that "shoplifting can be a flashpoint for violence". He added: "While this is not a nationwide policy, a decision to implement product security measures at a local level can be made if a store is experiencing a particular issue."

The British Retail Consortium's annual crime survey reported eight million incidents of shoplifting in 2021-2022, up from five million in 2016-2017. The rise cost £1 billion in lost sales.

Danny Micklethwaite, the vice-president of marketing at Arla Foods, said: "We want to make our price points more accessible for shoppers, which we believe can be achieved by reducing pack sizes. Many different factors affect the price consumers pay. These are set by retailers but we work with our partners to ensure we deliver tasty, quality dairy at the best possible price."

Little sign of "greedflation", page 34

MPs to question ITV bosses over This Morning scandal

Alex Farber Media Correspondent



Eamonn Holmes, who hosted This Morning with Ruth Langsford until 2020, said Holly Willoughby, whose break is being covered by Dermot O'Leary and Alison Hammond, should follow Phillip Schofield out

MPs will question ITV bosses on the unfolding Phillip Schofield scandal, including reports that the broadcaster paid his younger male lover a financial settlement.

Carolyn McCall, ITV's chief executive, could appear at a cross-party committee hearing next week, replacing the broadcaster's strategy, policy and regulation chief, who was initially expected to discuss the forthcoming media bill.

Two MPs said that they planned to question executives about the way ITV had dealt with the *This Morning* situation. The move came after a Daily Mail report that the show's former runner had received a payment. Sources suggested that the figure was in the low thousands of pounds and related to a post-Covid redundancy settlement.

Other developments include Schofield, 61 — who described the affair as "unwise but not illegal" as he resigned from ITV after a two-decade career — being dropped as an ambassador for The Prince's Trust charity.



A Trust spokesman told The Sun: "In light of Phillip's recent admissions, we have agreed with him that it is no longer appropriate to work together."

Other possible avenues of questioning by MPs include the emergence of an email from a former *This Morning* staff member questioning why Schofield had not been suspended pending an internal inquiry. According to Dan Wootton, an ex-contributor to the show, the email said: "A mainstream broadcaster such as ITV ought to be seen to be doing all it can to deal with issues like this, find out where the truth lies and, in the meantime, suspend those who the rumours concern?"

One committee member said: "I'm certainly not going to miss the opportunity to ask some questions — would you?"

One former *This Morning* executive said that there were concerns among the production team about the debacle. "ITV has handled the whole thing really badly," the executive said. "Staff are in real fear that the whole show is going to be scrapped."

Others have speculated that a senior executive may have to resign to save the show, with Martin Frizell, its longstanding editor, among candidates.

Pressure has also started to build on Schofield's co-host, Holly Willoughby, to step down, with the former *This Morning* host Eamonn Holmes among those calling for her to quit. Insiders said she should leave of her own volition.

"Not only should Phillip go, but Holly should follow him close out the door. I don't think you'll ever see her back on the couch again," said Holmes who, with his wife, Ruth Langsford, was replaced on the show more than two years ago. "It's about brand protection with her. She's got her company and advertising deals [and it] suspiciously looks like she's distancing herself from Phillip to protect."

One source said that she may opt against a return after the summer break, with the potential for the BBC to swoop in to poach her. Another source who has worked closely with Willoughby, 42, said that she was in a "bad way" about the situation. She has taken an unscheduled break, leaving Dermot O'Leary and Alison Hammond, who are Friday regulars, to host.

ITV expects Willoughby back at work on Monday, although there is some speculation as to whether she will return. "She'd be foolish to go back," one former ITV daytime executive said.

In a statement this week, Willoughby said Schofield denied the rumours when she confronted him. "It's been very hurtful to find out that this was a lie," she added.

Others see the debacle as an opportunity for Willoughby to make herself the linchpin of the show. A rival daytime producer said it was more likely that a senior member of ITV management would have to resign amid the accusations of a "toxic culture" at the show made by *This Morning*'s former doctor, Ranj Singh.

BBC turned hit politics show down

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The BBC refused to host Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart's podcast due to impartiality concerns, its producer has said.

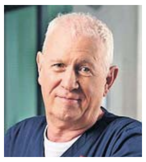
The issue centred around critical opinions of Boris Johnson, then prime minister, voiced by both hosts of *The Rest is Politics*, produced by Goalhanger Podcasts. The weekly show was considered as part of a BBC trial to feature content from beyond the corporation.

"We agreed a deal and sent over an episode but they turned it down and ripped up the contract," Tony Pastor, Goalhanger's chief creative officer, said at The Podcast Show in London.

"We were told 'you can't talk about Boris Johnson like that'. Our response was 'yes we can' … we don't have to be balanced."

A BBC spokeswoman said: "We don't recognise this account."

Casualty star to leave after four decades



Derek Thompson, the longest-serving cast member of *Casualty*, will leave the show after almost 40 years playing Charlie Fairhead, the BBC said.

Thompson, 75, said "the time has come for me to hang up Charlie's scrubs after the most wonderful 37 years". He appeared in nearly 900 episodes.

The BBC said Thompson will be filming until the autumn. The actor said his character was based on one of the show's medical advisers, the nurse Pete Salt: "I have tried to bring to Charlie the compassion, kindness, heroism and judgment we love in Pete," he said.

In 2017, Thompson was the BBC's highest paid actor, earning between £350,000 and £399,999 and ranking above stars such as Danny Dyer and Peter Capaldi, figures in the corporation's annual report revealed.

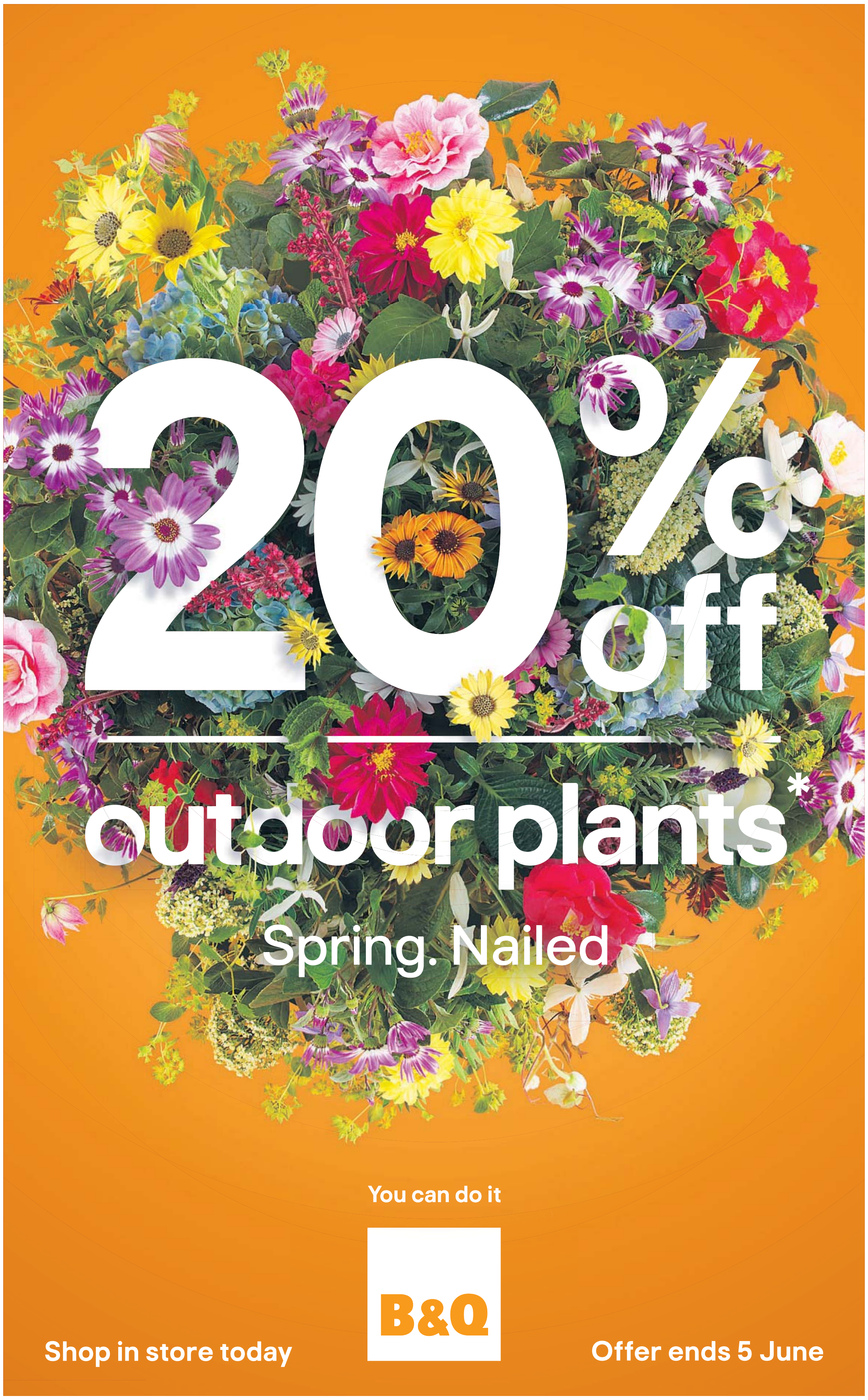


Terms & conditions apply. Finance subject to status. *This statement is based on ScottishPower's SmartGen+ tariff available only to customers who installed solar panels &/or solar batteries with ScottishPower, and is based on market analysis as at 18.05.23 (subject to change).



MALCOLM PARK/ALAMY

Picture this A Prints and Multiples sale will have 340 lots going under the hammer at Bonhams in Knightsbridge on June 2



*Offer excludes: bulbs, turf and any products sold and shipped by verified sellers on diy.com. Subject to availability. Ends 5 June. See in store or diy.com

More top doctors work part-time as waiting lists grow

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

One in five senior doctors now work part-time amid a big rise in NHS flexible working, a report shows.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) looked at the trends in working hours among hospital consultants, finding that 21.6 per cent worked part-time in August 2021, up from 15.6 per cent in April 2012. It found that nurses were about twice as likely to work part-time than consultants. However, while an increasing number of consultants are opting for part-time work, the rate has remained stable in nurses and midwives over the past decade, going from 40.7 per cent to 41.7 per cent.

In 2020 the NHS promised to offer all staff flexible working, including the opportunity to apply to work less than full-time from the first day of their employment.

Economists said that the trend towards greater part-time work in senior doctors may worsen the NHS staffing crisis, which is making it impossible to tackle record waiting lists for patients.

The IFS report said: "Higher rates of less than full-time working may require the NHS to train, recruit, manage and retain a greater number of employees in order to provide a given amount of care, unless it substantially increases the retention of existing employees. If [part-time] rates among doctors were to increase, this could mean the number of university places for medical students and training places for junior doctors would need to be increased."

However, the authors noted that flexible working policies were often essential to retain staff who might otherwise retire.

The NHS has a vacancy rate of 10 per cent, or about 133,000 posts, and doctors' leaders say that a big pay rise is needed to prevent shortages worsening. Full time work for a consultant is defined as working at least 40 hours a week on average. Basic pay for full-time NHS consultants averages £104,357, but most earn more through overtime, with average annual earnings of £126,124. More than 30,000 consultants are being balloted over strike action by the British Medical Association, in a row over pay.

The new study, which analysed payroll data, found that older and female doctors were more likely to work part-time. About a third of female consultants under 60 worked part-time, compared with less than an tenth of male consultants. Among those aged 60–64, 34 per cent of male consultants and 45 per cent of female consultants worked part-time. Half of all consultants in their 60s also went part-time in the year before they retired.

In recent years, a punitive pension tax means growing numbers of experienced consultants have chosen to work part-time or retire early, as they can be financially penalised for working extra hours.

In March, Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, announced that the government would abolish the lifetime pensions allowance in an effort to prevent GPs and doctors leaving the NHS.

The latest report does not include GPs but separate data shows a similar shift towards part-time work among family doctors.

The majority of GPs now work three-day weeks, as intense workloads leads to a "vicious cycle" with extra pressure meaning more and more are going part-time or leaving the profession entirely. A long-awaited NHS workforce plan, due to be published in the coming weeks, is expected to outline further steps to improve flexible working to help attract and retain staff.

Dental fees a stealth tax for NHS patients, union claims

Kat Lay Health Editor
Neel Kothari

Patients at hundreds of NHS dental surgeries are paying a "stealth tax" on treatments, according to new analysis.

At almost 500 practices across England, the amount paid by patients was greater than the sum a practice received to provide NHS services.

The British Dental Association, the dentists' union, which conducted the analysis, suggested that patients at those surgeries topped up government funding by £2 million last year.

Fees collected by surgeries go to the government. Dentists are paid via a system of contracts for the treatment carried out. NHS dental charges rose by 8.5 per cent from April 24, increasing check-up costs from £23.80 to £25.80, treatments such as fillings from £65.20 to £70.70 and the provision of dentures from £282.80 to £306.80.

A further 4 per cent increase is due next year.

There are concerns that costs are deterring patients from treatment. A YouGov poll carried out last month found that 23 per cent of respondents had delayed or done without NHS dental treatment because of the cost. Forty-three per cent said price influenced the treatment they chose, while 36 per cent said they were guided by the dentist.

Shawn Charlwood, chairman of the BDA general dental practice committee, said: "No NHS patient is making a fair contribution towards the costs of their care when they are putting in more than government." The BDA characterises the charges as a "stealth tax" at 488 practices in England.

Dhru Shah, a St Albans dentist, said: "Many NHS patients are used to paying for dentistry on the assumption that their care is part-funded. I suspect the public would be appalled to learn that, in some cases, this is generating a profit for the government, as this violates the ethos and values of the NHS.

"The escalating fees have now reached a crisis point for many hard-working families, who are being priced out of the NHS with no alternative readily available."

The Department of Health and Social Care denied that the government was making a profit from dental charges, saying that in 2019-20 patient charges raised less than 30 per cent of the total spent. It said it spent more than £3 billion a year on NHS dentistry and had plans to widen patient access.

How Britain's IRA mole got away with murder

Sean O'Neill

Britain's most important spy inside the IRA described how he murdered a man by shooting him in the back of the head, according to court papers unearthed in a new documentary.

Freddie Scappaticci, known by the codename Stakeknife, headed the IRA's internal security unit — known as the "nutting squad" — while at the same time passing high-grade secrets to his handlers in military intelligence.

Scappaticci, who died aged 77 earlier this year, has been accused of involvement in dozens of murders, kidnappings and torture incidents but documentary evidence of his criminality has never been produced.

A BBC Northern Ireland Spotlight investigation, *The Spy Who Got Away With Murder*, broadcast last night, has unearthed a witness statement from a man who was abducted in 1990 and taken to a house in Belfast to be interrogated by Scappaticci and his unit.

The man, Sandy Lynch, describes how he was stripped naked, tied to a chair and made to face a wall. He said that Scappaticci stood behind him, leaned over him and described how he would be tortured and killed.

"He said that I would wake up hung upside down in a cowshed and he would talk to me the way that he wanted to talk to me, that he would skin me alive and that no one would hear me squealing," Lynch said in his statement.

"He tapped me two or three times on the back of my head and said: 'You'll get it right there... like that bastard Fenton.' He said that he had done it."

The comment was a reference to the murder of a man called Joe Fenton who was killed in 1989 after being held and brutally interrogated by the IRA in the same house.

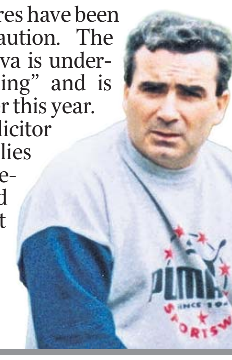
Unlike Fenton, however, Lynch was rescued when police raided the house before he was shot. He gave evidence against his alleged abductors before entering witness protection.

A fingerprint belonging to Scappaticci was found at the house and he was arrested and questioned but never charged with any offence. Nor was anyone ever charged with Fenton's murder.

Scappaticci was exposed by the media as a spy inside the IRA in 2003. He denied the allegation but left Northern Ireland and lived the rest of his life with a new identity in an MI5 witness protection programme in England.

The Stakeknife allegations have been the subject of Operation Kenova, a special police unit, since June 2016. Led by Jon Boutcher, a former chief constable, the Kenova team has retrieved thousands of documents from intelligence agency and security archives and submitted files to prosecutors recommending prosecutions. The inquiry examines whether state agencies could have prevented the murders carried out by Scappaticci and his unit on the orders of the IRA leadership. Senior intelligence agency personnel have given evidence statements and a number of leading IRA figures have been interviewed under caution. The first report from Kenova is undergoing "security checking" and is due for publication later this year.

Kevin Winters, a solicitor representing 12 families impacted by the Stakeknife allegations, said that the document unearthed by the BBC was a significant piece of evidence in the story of the double agent.



Freddie Scappaticci lived under witness protection in England

"Over the years there has been regular commentary about agents and informants but much of it falls down because of a lack of objective, hard evidence," said Winters.

"This is the exception. We now have, on the face of it, an important piece of documentary evidence in which Scappaticci implicates himself directly in murder. That sets this apart."

TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

Bowen's press pals in a stew

The first casualty of war is not truth but supper plans. Or it is for foreign correspondents. Jeremy Bowen, the BBC's international editor, will always remember the night that Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1995 since it coincided with a dinner party he had thrown for his competitors in Jerusalem. It was interrupted by their pagers going off with the news, though not at the same time. "Keith Graves [of Sky] got it a nanosecond earlier and was disappearing towards the front door without saying anything," Bowen told the Hay Festival. They all soon followed. Days later Bowen returned home to find forks still in food, a waste that disappoints him. "I'd made Delia Smith's sausage casserole," he said, "and was quite proud of it."

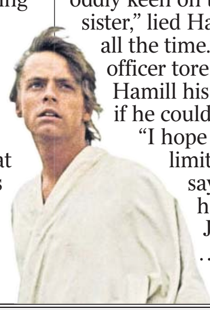
As dean of St John's College, Cambridge, Canon Mark Oakley is often required to steer theological discussion at high table. He writes in the Church Times that conversation recently turned to purgatory. "Will I go to purgatory?" one irascible old fellow asked. "Oh John," replied a weary neighbour, "it just wouldn't be purgatory without you."

TOM CAT
Gender fluidity may be fashionable but the Radio 5 Live presenter Jeanette Kwakye mistakenly transitioned a music legend yesterday while discussing the Glastonbury line-up. "Cat Stevens is a woman," she said, correcting Tony Livesey, her co-presenter, who had been wondering what songs "he" would sing at the festival. Livesey patiently explained that while Stevens now performs as Yusuf, he remains a he. The big beard is a clue. "Can we check?" Kwakye asked, amazed that a Cat could be male. She's clearly never heard his famous hit, *Mother and Daughter*.

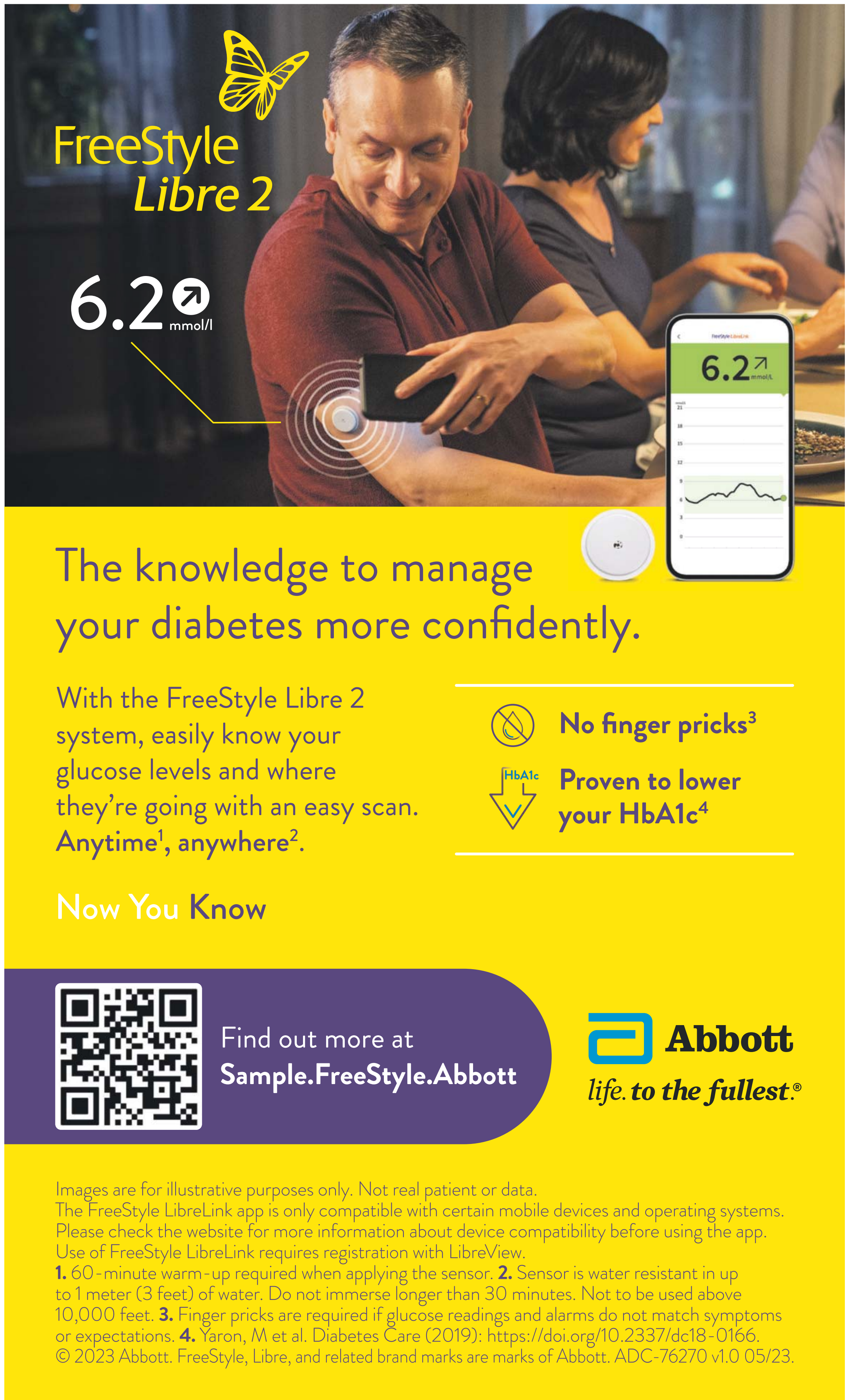
SHOTS WITH PAXO
Roger "Queen Mary" Tilling, who has announced the teams on University Challenge since 2001, will continue shouting things like "Felpersham-Archer" at students when St Catharine's-Paxman turns into Downing-Rajan for the next series. He says he will miss the elastic band fights he used to have on set with the outgoing presenter, "until they moved our positions in the studio further apart for health and safety". Jeremy Paxman was apparently "a great shot". Perhaps Amol Rajan should bring a water pistol to his first recording.

The latest Radio Times has been caught by the Curse of the Early Deadline. Its listings page has a smiling photo of Phillip Schofield to promote the British Soap Awards that he is now not hosting. By quirk of layout, the picture is right above the entry for a show called Tipping Point, *which the former daytime presenter reached a few days ago.*

THE DARK SIDE
A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away (well, mid-1970s California) a young actor about to land the role of his career was pulled over for speeding. Though not yet famous, his surname was and Mark "Luke Skywalker" Hamill tells *Wired* that this spared him a fine. By chance, there was a magazine on the seat next to him that had Dorothy Hamill, the Olympic champion figure skater, on the cover. "Any relation?" asked the cop, who was oddly keen on the sport. "My sister," lied Hamill, left. "I get it all the time." Impressed, the officer tore up the ticket, gave Hamill his address and asked if he could send an autograph. "I hope the statute of limitations has run out," says Hamill, who now has to make do with Jedi mind tricks.



PATRICK KIDD



News

Johnson could hand over WhatsApp chats after all

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor

A legal battle between ministers and the Covid-19 inquiry has been postponed by at least two days after the Cabinet Office said it could not hand over Boris Johnson's messages because it did not have them.

The official inquiry into Britain's handling of the pandemic gave the government an extension of two days until tomorrow afternoon to explain why it has not submitted the former prime minister's unredacted WhatsApp messages and notebooks.

Despite informing the inquiry that the Cabinet Office did not actually have the material, the government said that its main objection was to the principle of complying with the inquiry's demands rather than the practicalities.

A Cabinet Office spokeswoman said the government was "firmly of the view that the inquiry does not have the power to request unambiguously irrelevant information that is beyond the scope of the investigation". She added that the inquiry was seeking "the WhatsApp messages of government employees which are not about work but instead are entirely personal and relate to their private lives".

In a further complication, Johnson claimed that he was happy to pass the documents and messages to the Cabinet Office but that officials had not asked. Allies of the former prime minister said he was now examining whether he could turn over the unredacted documents to the inquiry himself without the government's involvement.

The government had previously been given until 4pm yesterday to comply with the order from the public inquiry, chaired by Baroness Hallett, a retired judge of the Court of Appeal.

Hallett has requested unredacted WhatsApp messages exchanged by Johnson and 40 government figures, including Rishi Sunak, Liz Truss, Matt Hancock, Dominic Cummings and Simon Case, the cabinet secretary, between January 1, 2020, and February 24 last year. The inquiry has also demanded that the government hand over Johnson's unredacted diaries and 24 notebooks from the period.

Legal advice from James Eadie KC, the first Treasury counsel, has warned the government that disclosing "politically sensitive" material could undermine cabinet collective responsibility, according to Bloomberg. The advice said that the government should not lightly concede the principle that sensitive material be readily disclosed.

A spokesman for Johnson said that the decision to withhold material was solely the government's. Meanwhile it emerged that a possible private phone call between Sunak and Johnson this week, which Johnson's allies had hoped might smooth over various issues, would not take place.

Lord Hague of Richmond, the former Conservative leader, backed the government's position, saying that ministers and officials might have less forthright conversations if they knew exchanges could later be published.

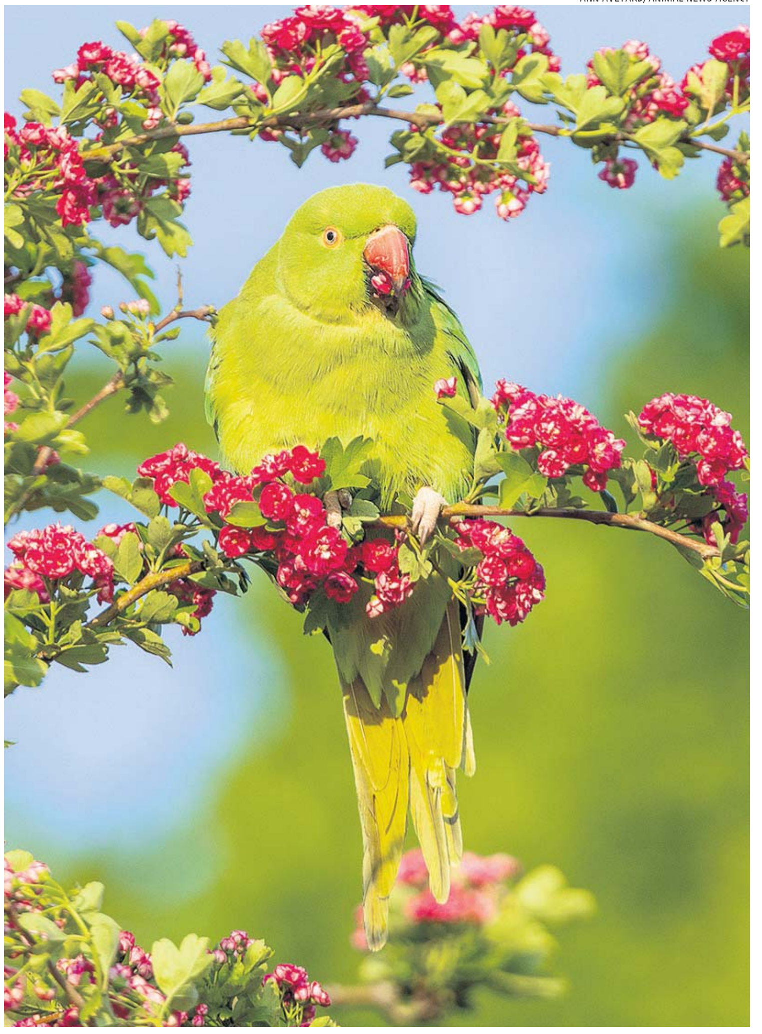
The Covid inquiry also announced yesterday that its public hearings, due to begin in a fortnight, would not conclude until the summer of 2026.

Potentially embarrassing subjects of Covid contracts and decisions on care homes will not be scrutinised in public until 2025. This will relieve some Conservatives who feared the issues would be in a spotlight before the general election, expected next year.

● A former top Chinese government scientist and virologist said the possibility that the Covid-19 virus leaked from a laboratory in Wuhan should not be ruled out. Professor George Gao was head of China's Centre for Disease Control and played a key role in the pandemic response and efforts to trace its origins. He told the BBC Radio 4 podcast *Fever: the Hunt for Covid's Origin*: "You can always suspect anything. That's science. Don't rule out anything."

The gap in the market for a Tory populist, Daniel Finkelstein, page 21
Cabinet Office is on a losing wicket over messages, Matthew Parris, page 22

ANN AVEYARD/ANIMAL NEWS AGENCY



Bird in the bush A ring-necked parakeet in Bushy Park, southwest London, one of thousands in the capital thought to be descended from released or escaped pets



Teacher sacked 'over Facebook response to rape threat by youths'

Ali Mitib

A primary school teacher has claimed that he was sacked for writing a Facebook post saying that he would sort out the youths who threatened to rape and murder his wife.

Michael Flynn, 52, allegedly broke his school's social media policy when he wrote a post appealing to the parents of the children who verbally abused his wife, Angela, after she caught them trying to steal a bicycle from their garden.

Mrs Flynn, who previously worked as a police officer in Louisana, said that she asked them to leave their property in Twydall, a suburb of Gillingham, Kent, on May 23 before one threatened to stab her and bring people who would rape her and murder the family.

In his post, Flynn, who missed the confrontation because he was sleeping through a diabetic episode, said: "Four kids tried to steal a pushbike from my front garden. When challenged they were verbally abusive and threatening to my wife. A chase ensued, one kid lost his shoes in the conflict. If this is your son, you may want to contact me before I contact the police. Twydall is a small place and I will find him sooner or later. So, if you want to sort this out calmly, I suggest the parents PM [private message] me or I will sort this out my way."

Flynn said the group returned the next day with a rock, but ran off after he caught them trying to throw it at a window. He claims he was dismissed from his role at Twydall Primary School the following day over the Facebook post. His former employer said that they parted ways because of safeguarding concerns.

Flynn, who has taught around the world during his 22-year teaching career, has had to look for work as a driver to support his disabled stepdaughter Alexis, 20, who needs 24-hour care after she was paralysed from the neck down in a car accident.

"I have stolen nothing and I've threatened no one. I am the victim of a crime, yet I am being punished," he said. "I loved teaching and this is certainly not the way I wanted to end my career."

When asked whether he may have gone too far with his Facebook post, he said: "Adrenalin was running a little high. I had just been woken by my wife telling me someone had threatened to rape her … I wish I had worded it a bit differently."

His wife, a stay-at-home carer, said: "I have to be here 24/7 to help my daughter and I'm petrified. Those kids said they were going to come back with people who were going to kill my family and rape me."

Kent police said they were investigating the abuse levelled at Mrs Flynn.

Twydall Primary School said: "The wellbeing of our pupils is our priority and we take our responsibilities to safeguard children extremely seriously."

Tributes to graduate killed by lightning

A British man who was struck by lightning while paddleboarding off the Greek island of Rhodes died despite the best efforts of fellow beachgoers to save him (Ali Mitib writes).

Scott Seddon, 26, a civil engineering graduate, was hit during a storm on Monday off Agia Agathi beach after ignoring cries to come ashore.

Tourists and locals went to his aid but he died at the scene while his girlfriend, a Brazilian resident, and paramedics tried in vain to revive him.

Friends described Seddon, who lived at his family home in Liverpool with his father, Steve, and sister Layla, as being generous and very well regarded.

The family friend told Mail Online: "I spoke to his dad and he told me Scott had been electrocuted. He said he was distraught. Steve couldn't say any more. He's heartbroken."

He added: "His sister flew out there to be with the rest of the family. Scott was a lovely guy and really popular.

"He used to live in Greece with the family and spoke Greek. He loved it there, but now they go and visit their holiday home there and live back here."

Friends paid tribute to Seddon, a keen sportsman who practised parkour, skied and went scuba diving.

One friend shared a picture of Seddon, a University of Brighton graduate who worked in the construction industry, with the caption: "Always kind, always generous, always fearless. RIP Scott".

At the time of the incident, Seddon's girlfriend was videoing him boarding during a downpour. According to local reports, she could be heard shouting "come out, come out" shortly before he was struck after he encountered difficulties.

His girlfriend and other beachgoers started calling for help after he was struck by the lightning bolt, the reports added.

Wander Machado, 47, a Brazilian tourist and footballer, told Rodiaki, a news outlet based in Rhodes: "I swam to get him out. But once I reached the board, I saw him slumped over, face down on the board.

"From there on, I realised that every second mattered and I started yanking him and the board to shore.

"At some point, I too feared for my life and drowning as it was raining heavily. But I didn't stop and managed to bring him to shore.

"When I brought him out to shore, he was still alive.

"I started giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, pumping also his chest and doing whatever else possible to keep him alive. I could hear his heart and he had a pulse.

"The rescuers arrived shortly afterwards and performed all the resuscitation procedures to keep him alive. Unfortunately, I found out a little later that he didn't make it."

Seddon was taken to the Achangelos local state hospital, where he was formally declared dead.

The Central Port Authority of Rhodes has begun an investigation into the incident.

Seddon attended King David High School in the Wavertree district of Liverpool before going to the nearby St Francis Xavier's College.

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office said: "We are supporting the family of a British man who has died in Rhodes and are in contact with the local authorities."



Scott Seddon liked sports including snowboarding. He had been warned to get out of the sea



Fake captain squanders victims' £270k

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A fraudster who posed as a cruise ship captain and conned £270,000 out of prospective holidaymakers has told a court that he can pay back only £350 to his victims.

Jody Oliver, 45, from Hereford, claimed to be the captain of a liner that was offering cut-price holidays with a company called Carnival Cruises. He was said to have dressed in a captain's uniform and emailed himself from fake accounts purporting to be those of fellow employees.



Jody Oliver offered cruises at cut prices and wore a ship's captain's uniform

Oliver sent victims bills for £35 to cover invented excursions from the ship during cruises of the Mediterranean. The entire venture was bogus, however, and Oliver spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on internet gambling, while also taking out payday loans.

He has been ordered to reimburse his victims but told Cardiff crown court that only £350 of the £272,000 he swindled was left. Among his victims were retired people who lost their savings after booking what they thought would be a "once-in-a-lifetime" holidays.

Oliver, a former police special constable, went to considerable lengths to maintain the ruse, dressing in a P&O officer's uniform.

He was also said to have led a double life. During the week he lived with his wife in the village of Bwlch, Powys, and at the weekends he stayed with a girlfriend.

One of his victims, Christine Evans, said in court: "I feel responsible for getting others involved." The victims had been hardworking people, she said, adding that Oliver's fraud had made her "blood boil".

Another victim, Marshall Goddard, told the court that "the whole episode has had a profound effect on my wife's health … as we are OAPs we can ill afford to lose this amount and it means a lot to us". Moira Mercer, who was also fell for one of his fraudulent offers, said: "It is difficult to express the range of emotions we had when learning the extent of Oliver's activities. Anger at being duped so easily, humiliation in talking to others about financial loss, and sadness that an individual can look you in the eye while knowing they are stealing people's hard-earned money."

Many of Oliver's criminal schemes began at the Alma Inn, a pub in Newport where he would socialise.

Andrew Davies, for the prosecution, said that Oliver's "ploy was to offer luxurious cruises to exotic places at a fraction of the price".

Oliver "used different names and job descriptions to obtain money and to live a life that he could not afford", Davies said, adding: "He was living two separate fantasy lives, neither of which he could sustain with legitimate income." Oliver's crimes came to light in 2018 when some of the would-be holidaymakers complained to police. The prosecution said they had been "left with packed bags waiting for transport to the airport for their cruise which never arrived".

Oliver pleaded guilty to six charges of fraud by false representation in relation to holidays sold between 2018 and 2019. Jailing him for six years and one month, Judge Richard Williams said he had used the swindled money to pay debts from his "freeloading lifestyle".

"You devastated not only your immediate family but all those involved in this case," the judge said.

At a proceeds of crime hearing, Oliver was ordered to pay compensation within three months or face an extra month in prison.

Union advises teachers to do less marking

Emma Yeomans

The UK's biggest teaching union has encouraged its members to do less marking in a guide to help stressed teachers to reduce their workload.

Cutting non-teaching tasks and reducing workload is one of the union's demands in its industrial dispute with the government.

The Reducing Accountability Workload guide, published on the National Education Union (NEU) website, says: "Although giving feedback to pupils is important, this does not necessarily mean written marking, or that it should be done in a prescribed manner."

The Department for Education says marking should be "meaningful, manageable and motivating" and feedback from teachers to pupils does not always need to be in written form.

The NEU and three other education unions representing 400,000 staff are balloting members on co-ordinated future strikes, which could hit all English state schools over the next six months.

CHISWICK AUCTIONS



Prints among men A limited edition 1976 image by the photographer Andrew Kent of David Bowie at Lenin's Tomb in Red Square is for sale at Chiswick Auctions, London



Plague bacteria found in 4,000-year-old bodies

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

The earliest evidence of the bubonic plague in Britain has shed new light on how the disease swept across Europe during the Bronze Age.

Traces of *Yersinia pestis*, the bacteria that causes the plague, have been found at two burial sites — at Charterhouse Warren, Somerset, and Levens Park, Cumbria — inside the teeth of two children and a woman who lived about 4,000 years ago.

Dozens of people were entombed at Charterhouse Warren and it now appears to be the earliest mass grave in Europe where the plague has been found. However, those buried there appeared to have died very violently, making it unlikely they perished from the disease. The researchers did not find a live pathogen capable of infecting a person. Instead they identified remnants of bacterial DNA.

The results bring into focus how the pathogen crept across Eurasia during the early Bronze Age. It appears likely that it was first brought to Britain by people whose roots could be traced back to the Pontic–Caspian steppe, which stretches from the northern shores of the Black Sea to the northern area around the Caspian Sea. Their ancestors began to migrate into central Europe about 5,000 years ago.

"People have speculated that perhaps a plague epidemic is what drove some of them off the steppe," said Tom Booth of the Crick Institute in London, one of the authors of the study, published in the journal Nature Communications. Some of this population moved to Europe where, about 4,500 years ago, a new, bell-shaped pottery style appeared in Iberia. These "bell-beakers" are seen in Britain less than 100 years later.

A previous DNA study by Natural History Museum experts suggested that the movement of Beaker people from continental Europe led to an almost complete replacement of Britain's earlier inhabitants, who had been responsible for huge megalithic monuments such as Stonehenge.

The Beakers brought genes with them that would have made lighter skin, blue eyes and blonde hair more common. These displaced the olive-brown skin of previous residents of Britain. The latest findings suggest they may have also brought the plague. However, the strain found in Somerset and Cumbria lacks two genes — known as yapC and ymt — that appear to be important for transmission via fleas and rats. It is possible that it was transmitted instead from human to human, much as Covid is. A different strain — carried by fleas — would later cause the Black Death in the 14th century.

The researchers took samples from 34 individuals across the two sites. The process involves drilling into a tooth and extracting dental pulp.

Two of the positive results were in children 10-12 years old when they died, and one was in a woman believed to have been between 35 and 45. Radiocarbon dating suggests all three lived at roughly the same time.

Pooja Swali, a PhD student at the Crick Institute, who led the research, said: "These genomes can inform us of the spread of pathogens in the past, and hopefully help us understand which genes may be important in the spread of diseases."

Life on Mars recreated below Yorkshire

Tom Whipple Science Editor

More than a kilometre beneath the Yorkshire moors, at the end of a tunnel chiselled out of salt, there is a little patch of land that is a little bit Martian. In the Boulby potash mine, scientists have set up base, as part of a project to see what it might be like to live and conduct medical procedures on a planet beyond the Earth.

Dr Alexandra Iordachescu, from the University of Birmingham, is leading the first phase of the project, with a 3m-wide laboratory where she and her colleagues will investigate ways that astronauts might treat tissue damage. Because of the rigours of space and lower gravity, astronauts will lose bone density and suffer tissue loss. The researchers are seeking ways to mitigate this with minimal outside help.

"On the Moon or Mars, these crews will not benefit from immediate medical assistance," she said. Neither will they have much equipment. On Mars, there could be a delay of up to 20 minutes in receiving instructions.

This means that they need to find ways that medicine can be performed without much help. "This project is heavily focused on understanding the bioengineering and biomedicine that could enable that shift towards autonomous medical operations," said Iordachescu.

When astronauts make it to Mars or the Moon, they will have to cope with high doses of radiation, extreme temperatures and meteorite impacts.One suggestion is that the bases should be set up in caverns.

Iordachescu said the fact that everything came down a lift shaft that ran a few times a day gave them a small sense of the logistical difficulties. "The location is essential … You need to plan in advance and think about what you can actually take and what is absolutely necessary."

It's Xi, not the West, busy humiliating Putin
Roger Boyes
Page 22

Comment

There's a gap in the market for a Tory populist

I hope no one follows, but Trump shows that leaning right on culture wars and left on the economy can pay dividends

Daniel Finkelstein



@DANNYTHEFINK

Bill Clinton has said he wished he could find the unified field theory of politics. He wouldn't have had to employ so many advisers. His wish is destined to remain unfulfilled. But there are definitely rules that can guide political analysis and prediction. And one of them is this: a political position that enjoys wide public support and some logic will eventually find a willing champion.

It was this thought that in November 2011 led me to predict that before too long a mainstream politician would champion leaving the European Union. Since 1962, when Hugh Gaitskell spoke against ending "a thousand years of history", the campaign for being out rather than in had pitched both ends (Michael Foot and Enoch Powell) against the middle (Roy Jenkins, Ted Heath) and the middle won, as it tends to.

I believed this would not last. I thought that as the single currency prompted greater European integration, an increasing number of voters would turn against EU membership. They would lack a mainstream leader. And this would be an irresistible political opportunity for someone. It wasn't an opportunity I wanted anyone to take, but it was one I was sure someone would take.

So it proved. The former mayor of London, once the supporter of liberal causes and the single market, saw there was a gap in the political market that was Boris Johnson-shaped.

I'm writing this because I think there is now another hole in British politics. One that, again, I don't want anyone to fill. But one that I think there will be at least an attempt to fill. Someone will try to become the mainstream leader of populism.

In Matthew Goodwin's book *Values, Voice and Virtue*, the professor veers uncertainly between what I often thought an absurd and quite dangerous conspiracy theory about a "new elite", and robust and informative political analysis. But the latter makes his book worthwhile.

Goodwin argues, with reason, that levels of education are the big dividing line in modern political attitudes and that the liberalism of those people with degrees doesn't sit well with lots of voters. This argument has been taken up with enthusiasm on the right, leading to much unfortunate talk about the blob and the wokerati and so forth.

Yet as well as being a right-wing book, Goodwin's tract is also a left-wing one, and this has been less widely noted. As well as wanting less immigration and feeling keenly the need to protect the country's tradition and culture from too much change, Goodwin says a large wedge of voters believe they are being short-changed economically.

> This may be hard to imagine now but it's far from impossible

As he puts it, drawing on an Ipsos poll from July 2021: "Two thirds felt the economy has been rigged 'to advantage the rich and the powerful', while almost the same share said 'Britain's political and economic elites do not care about hard-working people'."

In other words, there is an opportunity for a populist leader who combines left-wing economic rhetoric with right-wing culture warrior positions. In his battle for the Republican nomination with Ron DeSantis, it is notable that Donald Trump has pitched himself to the left, economically, of the Florida governor. He can see the chance.

Is there anyone ready to take up this position in this country?

The two most obvious contenders to be populist leaders are Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson. They certainly both have the will. Farage has been talking this week about returning to politics. And Johnson hankers after a comeback. But I'm not sure either of them are able to fill the gap that exists.

Farage retains the capacity to be a disruptive figure in an election campaign and might cost the Tories dearly. But he is limited by his decision to remain outside the two-party system. He has ruled out running again to be an MP, presumably because he fears (rightly) that he wouldn't win. This, however, isn't the biggest obstacle to his role as a populist leader. His problem is that he is too right-wing on economics.

He has an ability, amounting almost to genius, of identifying cultural issues with populist appeal as he showed in the early days of the small boats controversy. But he is still, in many respects, a traditional Thatcherite. When he complains that Brexit hasn't really been tried, what he means is that we haven't used our "new Brexit freedoms" to cut regulations and taxes. A policy that most Brexit supporters don't believe in.

Johnson is more open to taking such an economic position. He quite likes high spending, even if he is both baffled by, and averse to, its consequences. And anyway, he — how shall I put it? — carries his principles lightly. He is personally quite socially liberal but even this might not prove an insuperable barrier to him reaching for the crown as king of illiberalism.

PETER NICHOLLS/REUTERS



Johnson carries principles lightly and may aspire to be king of illiberalism

A more serious obstacle for him is that his supporters are predominantly (not exclusively, but predominantly) economically orthodox Conservatives. They have explained away Johnson's high-spending, high-tax past (absurdly) as the act of a "socialist" Rishi Sunak, diverting their hero from his true path as a free marketeer. They would not react well to him actually advocating the high-tax policy he drifted into when in power.

Because Tory populism is confused. It is ready to fight a culture war, sometimes searching rather desperately for a battle to engage in. But it ignores the other half of Goodwin's analysis. And advocating orthodox economics leaves a big gap for the culture war to fill, which is why it often seems more than a little strained. The Republican Party has gone half crazy trying to attract populist voters while continuing to advocate small-state policies.

There is a route to left-wing Tory economics, however. It runs through security. It begins by mounting a robust (and merited) attack on China's human rights record and leads ultimately to protectionism. This can be accompanied both by a policy of subsidy for firms affected by such protection and an attack on the business "elite" that wants to trade internationally. This business "elite" will also be attacked as "woke", thus uniting two populist preoccupations.

The Tory party was the party of protection for decades and fought several elections on the issue (unsuccessfully). An explicit (as opposed to accidental) high-tax, anti-free trade, anti-business Tory stance may be hard to imagine right now, but it certainly isn't impossible.

It will, however, be a risk. It will require someone with the political imagination to strike out in a new direction. Someone with the confidence that while they have left people like me behind, they will bring enough of the right with them.

Or the left. After all, economic populism and cultural conservatism is open to Labour politicians too.

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Comment

It's Xi, not the West, busy humiliating Putin

Far from being engaged in a partnership of equals, China is exploiting the war to eclipse Russia

Roger Boyes



@ROGERBOYES

It's the privilege of a centenarian to change his mind at least one more time before the Grim Reaper comes knocking. Henry Kissinger, who has just turned a hale 100, used to argue that the West had helped to feed Vladimir Putin's aggressive instincts by recklessly holding open the prospect of Nato membership for Ukraine.

Now, in birthday interviews, he is saying the opposite: Kyiv should be allowed to come on board. That's nice to hear, and may indeed reflect a strand in current US state department thinking. But although he has seemingly reversed his position it is still based on the same flawed logic.

Ukraine, he says, has been equipped to the point where it will be the best armed and yet least strategically mature state in Europe. That should rattle the Putin regime enough to engage in invasion-braking talks with the West. "If I talked to Putin," says Kissinger, "I would tell him that he too is safe when Ukraine is in Nato."

If you parse that sentence (and you have to do that quite a lot with late Kissinger) it means he thinks a deal could eventually be reached with the Kremlin on the basis of the West admitting Kyiv to Nato — providing the US undertook to restrain Volodymyr Zelensky. Kissinger and Joe Biden are at odds on several issues but they agree for now on the principle of a self-limiting war, one in which there are no Nato boots on the ground, no Nato support for attacks on Russia, restrictions on long-range weapons; nothing that could tempt escalation.

Kissinger, of course, has had to adjust his view of the future world — one that sees Europe, China and the US in a stable balance — in the light of the destabilising effects of a major European land war. But one thing stays constant for him: neither Russia nor China can have their noses rubbed in the sand.

Like many of his generation, his world view is coloured by the Versailles treaty that ended the First World War and set the tone for the nationalist resurgence of the 1930s. The conclusion is remarkably simplistic for such an otherwise subtle historian: Germany felt humiliated and demanded strongman leadership that roared towards a new war. This template still serves him.

> China is making hay in Central Asia and the Kremlin is seething

Saving the face of Moscow and Beijing has thus become the central task of western diplomacy. That has got to be wrong. The real point is surely not that the West is insensitively marginalising Russia, nor that it is failing to pay its dues for a century of heavy-handed, demeaning treatment of China. It's not that a smaller power like Ukraine should exercise "restraint" while defending itself. Or be reined in by its western arms suppliers and political patrons. Nor is there a compelling argument — at a time when Xi Jinping regularly rehearses an invasion of the island — for gagging western pro-independence rhetoric on Taiwan. Kissinger has invested too much of his career in pleasing China in the name of avoiding what he calls "catastrophic consequences".

If feelings of grievance are at the heart of all this, what is one to make of China's stealthy humiliation of Putin's debilitated Russia? Xi promised to protect Putin from political isolation with a "limitless" partnership. Together, they were going to rewrite the rules of the global order. Instead China pressed on with its quiet but steely competition with Moscow, starting with a scramble for influence in the Central Asian "stans" which were once an essential part of the Soviet Union.

Last year, as Russian tanks struggled in Ukraine, China pushed its way into becoming Central Asia's major trading partner — trade up more than 40 per cent from 2021, rising to $70 billion. Russian total trade with the region dropped to less than $40 billion. Putin needs Central Asia to bypass western sanctions, and that has shifted power away from Moscow to booming countries such as Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. China is making hay and the Kremlin is seething.

Perhaps that will pass but there is no mistaking the coded reprimands from Beijing to Moscow to stop it threatening nuclear escalation. While Russia's global diplomacy is limited by the war to occasional flurries before United Nations votes, Xi is chasing after peace negotiations in the Middle East and beyond; Moscow is eclipsed.

China plainly doesn't want Russia to disintegrate and will judge Putin on his ability to hold the country together. Should the Ukraine war intensify the competition between Russia's elites, China will have its favourites and will make its judgments on which new leader is ready to work co-operatively on access to the melting Arctic trade routes and, some way into the future, on some kind of joint management of Siberian energy resources.Those are the ingredients for real upheaval. Putin's nationalist critics see him leading Russia into oriental vassaldom; others smell drift, away from Orthodox spirituality and national identity.

For the time being the present situation suits Xi: an increasingly beholden Putin, the evolution of a very junior partnership. As for the Chinese role in brokering peace in Ukraine, Xi appears in no hurry to end the war or give breathing space to Putin. His chief concern is to ensure the West cannot declare victory; the long-term political survival of Putin may be secondary.

Kissinger will disagree (it will not, after all, be his problem for much longer), but this is not the time to cosy up to two land-grabbing rule-breaking autocrats and seek common ground. Rather, to point out a simple truth: they are a toxic partnership.

Matthew Parris Notebook

Now there's only one safe place to share secrets

So it's Cabinet Office versus Covid inquiry. There's no need to point out that the former is on a losing wicket here. You can't set up an all-embracing inquiry, give its chairwoman the job of gathering information, then try to insist that those holding the information must be the judges of what the inquiry may see.

Resistance is futile. I observe only that future historians studying the era into which we're moving will have a hell of a job piecing together what lay behind the scenes. Why? Well, what conclusions are we all drawing from the potential requisitioning of our private communications? Obviously that we must never suppose that any recordable exchange may not in future be published. We're entering the most document-rich, explanation-poor epoch in human history. Already I take care in electronic communications to avoid anything that might look embarrassing in the Daily Mail. So should you. To communicate anything sensitive or risky, restrict yourself to face-to-face, one-to-one, deniable private speech. As for ministers, they should communicate only in public lavatories with the taps running, like British spies meeting undercover contacts in Moscow.

Staffs sold short

As we drove across the River Dove into Staffordshire, we encountered a road sign: Welcome to Staffordshire, home of Stafford University. Well, yes — that's kind of priced in? Who writes these mottos? Couldn't they be a bit more adventurous, like New Hampshire's "Live free or die"? Yorkshire's "God's own county" sets the tone. Cheshire could celebrate its "Wives and Girlfriends"; and Norfolk "Very flat" could vie with Northamptonshire "Where?".

Anyway, after a glorious seven-mile walk across the Manifold Valley, I've come up with an idea for the Staffordshire Moorlands district council. You may not know (few seem to) that these magnificent, lark-loud, cuckoo-calling, meadow-blossomed Peak District hills, crags and gorges are the most breathtaking scenery in the whole national park: even better (whisper it) than Derbyshire's. Motorists driving into these sublime surroundings should be greeted with "Welcome to Staffordshire Moorlands: Derbyshire's best-kept secret".



Rising from the ashes

But oh dear: the now-pitiful plight of our predominating tree, the noble ash. Every year this notebook has reported the advance of the raging, spore-borne ash dieback disease. Now we're seeing hundreds of dead trees, and hundreds more close to death. It's pitiful.

Some enlightened landowners are replanting other native species, and the Peak District national park is doing the same, but can we keep up? I do wonder whether ministerial plans to treble tree planting rates across England by the end of this parliament have taken into account — indeed, subtracted — the millions that are dying or will die (the National Trust estimates 150 million) from ash dieback?

It's not entirely bad news, though. Already in clearings created by sick, bare-branched ash I'm seeing oak, birch, sycamore, beech and hawthorn. If this pestilence increases tree diversity in landscapes once overly reliant on armies of fast-growing ash, then all will not be lost.

Step on the gas

Here's a mystery. No doubt it's true we're not building enough new homes, but I can't help noticing that new-build private housing estates seem to be everywhere in our part of Derbyshire. Stretches of the A6 are a near-permanent traffic jam caused by temporary lights as construction vehicles, lorries and diggers elbow onto the highway. Entire new mini neighbourhoods are springing up. Yet I haven't seen a single solar panel on a single new roof, and none of the houses I've inspected more closely are being fitted with heat pumps. New gas boilers aren't banned until 2025.

These "green" technical innovations are easy to incorporate. Why isn't this already a building regulation requirement for new-build? Civil servants will doubtless tell ministers that the green manufacturers and fitters aren't ready for an explosion in demand. True. Nor will they be until the demand stares them in the face. Nobody quite believes politicians' guff about our greener future. Only when it's translated into regulation will the industry wake up.

THUNDERER

Unions run by boomers hurt the young most of all

Ross Clark

Baby boomers are monopolising wealth and stealing the futures of the young. We have often heard that charge made in the context of the housing market, but it is even more true when it comes to trade union militancy.

The image of a striking trade unionist as a man in a donkey jacket warming his hands on a brazier is long out of date. The archetypal union activist now is a senior public sector worker in a white-collar occupation who is demanding higher pay in spite of already receiving well above the national average — and in spite of being guilty of static or falling productivity (public sector productivity is down 7 per cent since before the pandemic, according to the Office for National Statistics).

Figures from the business department show a stark generational divide when it comes to union membership. Last year, 40 per cent of workers aged over 50 were members of a union, compared with just 4 per cent of 16 to 24-year-olds.

There is a similar gulf between socio-economic groups. Union membership is highest among professional occupations, at 40.8 per cent. It is 25.6 per cent among "process, plant and machinery workers" and only 15.5 per cent among elementary occupations.

The one blue-collar occupation that bucks the trend in still being heavily unionised is that of train driver. But it is an astonishingly privileged occupation. Unions have rejected an offer which would take basic pay from £60,000 to £65,000, twice the national average even before overtime is added on.

Why does this matter? Because although union might is much diminished since the 1970s, what power remains is being used to win large pay increases for groups of workers who are already well-paid — and whose salaries in most cases are funded by the taxpayer. Young people, many of them bearing hefty student debts which their parents never had to pay, are having to subsidise pay and pension agreements for people who are far better off than they may ever be themselves.

The higher the pay, the more outrageous the pay demands. Look at the NHS. We balked when nurses demanded 17 per cent (although suggested they might meet the government half way). Then junior doctors demanded 35 per cent. And now hospital consultants, who earn on average £128,000 a year, are suggesting 50 per cent. There is a reason for this: the more you earn, the longer you can afford to commit yourself to strike action, and so the more brazen you can be.

Eventually, the gig economy may kill off trade unions for good. But in the meantime they have become like golf clubs: largely the preserve of the well-off.



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Police cannot pick up mental health pieces

Expecting officers to make up for the failings of care in the community hurts everyone, especially the most vulnerable

Alice Thomson



@ALICETTIMES

My aunt Elisabeth was 6ft tall and had flaming red hair. She wore galoshes and three hats in a heatwave, ate dog food sandwiches and grew vegetables on my uncle David's grave. They were gentle giants and had met in a mental institution in the 1960s. He was a gardener and schizophrenic; she was head girl of her school but became bipolar as an adult. They were early experiments for care in the community, living in a terraced house in Cambridge.

When my uncle died, she spiralled. Living alone with her dog and parrot, her eccentricities became more pronounced, exasperating the locals. She often forgot her medication. Social service visits were sporadic. More regular were the police. They would be called weekly, as one day she would pick all her neighbours' flowers and scatter them along the pavement, the next she would break into someone's home at 3am clutching a plastic watergun, convinced of an alien attack. Or she was found covered in blood on the floor when her mixer exploded while she was making brawn from a pig's head. It took hours of police time.

She is not an isolated case. On our street in London, a grandmother with dementia who was a midwife regularly disappears in her nightie to "deliver a baby". The patrol car arrives to help when her distraught daughter fails to find her. A friend's teenage son has struggled with a series of psychotic episodes, and it is always the police who come to comfort the family.

In the last two decades we've become better at discussing mental health but we're still frightened of those who are schizophrenic, psychotic or suicidal, addicts or victims of aggressive Alzheimer's. We

> A third of the Met's time is spent attending to the mentally ill

stigmatise and recoil — and leave the police to pick up the pieces. It's often some of their finest, least heralded work, as officers evaluate risk, de-escalate dramas, calm and soothe the most vulnerable and their relatives.

Now the Metropolitan Police commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, has said his force will stop attending emergency calls linked to mental health on August 31, because they should be dealt with by experts. For once, the Met's frustrations are understandable. A third of its time is spent attending to the mentally ill because social care and health services are so overstretched. Officers queue for nearly one million hours a year at A&E with those suffering a mental health crisis, the National Police Chiefs' Council estimates. They spend on average ten hours with a patient when they are being sectioned under the Mental Health Act. Sir David Thompson, the former chief constable of West Midlands police, described a distraught teenage girl living in a police station for two days because no psychiatric bed was available anywhere in the country.

Prisons have also been deluged with the mentally ill. Suicidal women are being sent to jail as a place of safety, having committed no crime. At HMP Styal, in three months last summer, six women were admitted "for their own protection" as there were not enough mental health beds to accommodate them. HMP Bronzefield received 75 women on mental health grounds as there was no other provision. Thirty-seven per cent of those in prison have psychiatric issues. Nick Hardwick, the former chief inspector of prisons, once told me: "We turn a blind eye to the torture of the mad by the bad."

Mental health services, post-pandemic, are overwhelmed. Referrals to the NHS in England increased by 44 per cent from 2017 to 2022. Staff say they are firefighting on all fronts despite extra funding. There are now 1.2 million people waiting for help from community-based mental health services. As their wellbeing deteriorates, according to the Royal College of Psychiatrists, these people increasingly struggle to cope with work, finances and relationships, with many so desperate they dial 999 as they spiral out of control. Dr Adrian James, the

> Psychiatric beds in England fell by 93 per cent from 1960 to 2019

college's president, says there aren't the resources to "plug the gaps" without police and prison cover.

So the police can't suddenly quit now they have become a last resort. And yet the Met is also failing to record 69,000 crimes a year. It clearly can't be expected to act as long-term emergency cover.

In Humberside, the police have found a compromise. Three years ago, they adopted the Right Care Right Person programme. Mental health professionals from the charity Mind deal with 999 mental health calls and decide on the most appropriate care provider — hospital, community social workers, the voluntary sector or the police. This approach has led to 508 fewer police deployments a month and 1,132 officer-hours saved. Some other emergency responders now send NHS mental health ambulances with staff who can assess patients on site.

I was brought up across the river from an old red-brick Victorian mental asylum and took cleaning jobs there in my teens. At best, the mentally ill had routine and structure, sport, leisure activities and professional care. But the shift from the 1980s towards care in the community had a certain sense: too many had too often become institutionalised. And yet care in the community became careless. Scientists at Newcastle University found that between 1960 and 2019 the number of psychiatric beds in England reduced by 93 per cent. It saved money but families and neighbours can't bear the burden alone, nor can the police, hospitals, charities and prisons.

Those with mental health conditions, from young psychotic students to suicidal mothers and Alzheimer's pensioners, need specialist community and hospital provision that require infrastructure and resources. Leaving them languishing in police cells, A&E corridors or in prison isn't a long-term solution on either humanitarian or financial grounds.

Letters to the Editor

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Housing policies

Sir, How awkward for the Tories who appear to promote the building of houses to make profit for their donors irrespective of the type that are really needed and the fact that local infrastructure, from water and sewage to healthcare and roads, is totally unable to support what exists already ("Millionaire Tory donors 'on strike' over housing", news, May 30). The Tories are no longer the biggest party on Horsham council for the first time in 24 years, mainly for these reasons.
Bernice Baker
Horsham, W Sussex

Sir, Could it just be that even Conservative councillors and MPs are realising that proposed developments feature far too many unaffordable homes and pay mere lip service to the sort of affordable property needed? Perhaps such schemes are either not making it to a planning committee or are rightly being refused permission.
Dave Ryder-Mills
Former councillor, Honiton, Devon

Sir, I wonder if I am one of these landowners "blocking" housebuilding ("Labour to make landowners sell at lower price for housing", news, May 30). Having waited almost 30 years for a local plan that arrived ten years late, we now have development proposals arrived at via neighbourhood consultations that are being dismantled by a planning officer who is not permitted to look beyond ten years (the remaining life of the plan); a highways department whose war against cars will not permit the building of any road infrastructure; and a council that has been unable to hire a head of planning.
Henry Cobbold
Knebworth House, Herts

Ex-PM's messages

Sir, Items of interest are requested to be handed over to a public inquiry judge, who will decide upon their relevance ("Legal wrangle looms over Johnson's WhatsApp chats", news, May 30); it is not a request for immediate revelation of their contents. The suggestion that provision of the messages could breach Boris Johnson's privacy is hardly comprehensible in the light of his embarking upon speech tours and written work while the ink on his resignation letter was barely dry.
His Honour Barrington Black
London NW3

Corrections and clarifications

● A photo of Uwe Kitzinger at a march in his nineties (Obituary, May 30) showed him with his daughter Jenny, not her sister Tess as we wrongly said.

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The role of police at mental health callouts

Sir, It is reported that the Metropolitan Police will shortly refuse to attend mental health callouts unless there is a threat to life (news, May 30). If implemented, this is an overdue reassessment of the police role as the "fail safe" organisation when more appropriate agencies are unable or unwilling to respond. It has long been the case that police detention facilities are not suitable for those with mental health problems. Efforts to ameliorate this, such as the employment of mental health nurses in custody suites, do not alter this fact. Perhaps the involvement of police in an ever multiplying plethora of "multi-agencies" might also be reassessed. "Bobbies on the beat", is the oft-expressed wish of the public, but this need is unlikely to be met when police are continually drawn from their core role.
Jim Howard
Ret'd Met chief superintendent, Devon

Sir, I have some sympathy with the Met police chief: 10,000 hours a month spent dealing with mental health crises equate to 1,250 eight-hour shifts. As a GP I regularly had to spend hours waiting for social workers and psychiatrists to attend mental health crises to enable us to section a patient and get them into a psychiatric unit and I retired 12 years ago. Maybe the police chief should ask for extra officers to cover those 10,000 hours.
Dr Martin Seely
Worsley, Greater Manchester

Sir, The police have been used as an emergency psychiatric service for many years and, understandably, feel they need to focus on dealing with crime. During my work as a psychiatrist I was always grateful for and impressed by the rapid, caring and sensible response by the police in many difficult situations. They will be greatly missed.

Crisis teams are frequently slow to respond, despite their best efforts. They have high workloads and low staffing levels. Crisis teams will be in crisis themselves, unable to deliver the service they want to provide for vulnerable people. This dilemma must be addressed urgently.
Dr Dorcas Kingham
Retired consultant psychiatrist, Bristol

Sir, No constable using their powers under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 responsibly could leave the person they had detained without being certain that the relevant professionals were available to conduct a mental health assessment. Unlike Ken Marsh of the Metropolitan Police Federation, I don't regard that as "babysitting", merely acting responsibly and professionally.
Mick Tutt
Former director, North Hampshire mental health services

Sir, Sir Mark Rowley's decision is perverse and dangerous. Fashion, ideology, misplaced funding and unnecessary fragmentation have created a mental health service which is embattled, inward-looking, defensive and fearful. Mental Health Act assessments in the community routinely take several weeks, which increases risk and generally means the sufferer is much more ill when he or she is admitted. These structural, cultural and attitudinal problems must be understood and intelligently addressed before the Met is allowed to wind down its officers' vital role in the protection and care of society's most vulnerable members.
Jeremy Walker
London WC1E

Donating game

Sir, Gareth Wyn Jones suggests that game be offered to urban food banks (news, May 27); it has already been available to charities for a number of years. The Country Trust donated 1,200 pouches of venison and pheasant casseroles in individual portions to our food bank in Ledbury. Unfortunately, we struggled to give it away, even though we are in a rural community. Many of our clients don't like the idea of eating game, despite its nutritional value. Perception is part of the problem. Perhaps game could be re-marketed as "forest beef".
Annie Peake
Ledbury Food Bank, Herefordshire

Sir, I wonder whether food bank customers faced with feathers, blooded furry carcasses and glassy eyes would know what to do with said offerings. Even quite skilled cooks might blanch at the idea. A wholesome game pie is a fine thing, will feed a family and is cheaper to make compared with much of the fast food we eat nowadays. What a pity there are so few Mrs Beetons out there with the skills and mindset to rise to the challenge.
Jenny Marriott
Crewkerne, Somerset

Sir, Andrew Paulson advises caution on eating shot game because of the danger of biting lead pellets (letter, May 30). This will become much more serious after the introduction of steel shot in the place of lead.
Miles Tuely
Woodstock, Oxon

Consultant pay

Sir, The British Medical Association demonstrated breathtaking hubris in demanding a 50 per cent pay rise for NHS consultants (news, May 30). Consultants are already in the top 10 per cent of earners in the UK and have ample opportunity to increase their earnings with private practice and increased NHS activity. They also have a most generous pension scheme and exclusion of lifetime allowance taxation.

Consultants, and junior doctors, seem indifferent to the harm they will cause NHS services and patients. It is time for the profession to take a reality check: we are in difficult economic times and many people are suffering. There is no bottomless pit to fund the NHS and siphoning capital away from services is thoughtless and reckless by a group already well recompensed.
Professor Stephen Leveson
Hull York Medical School, York

Adverts on the BBC

Sir, Taking advertising on the BBC would have a major effect on the rest of the media marketplace (news, May 26). It is unlikely that advertising budgets would be increased. Major broadcasters such as ITV and Channel 4 could lose sufficient advertising revenue to make their financial models unsustainable, requiring them to charge subscriptions to make up the shortfall. We could also lose niche channels such as Talking Pictures TV. There is a need for reform but the licence fee remains a bargain compared with other subscription services. Your solution (leading article, May 29) would probably cost most viewers a lot more than they pay now.
Michael Constable
London SW18

AN EMPIRE CANCER CAMPAIGN

FROM THE TIMES MAY 31, 1923

We publish today an appeal, addressed to the whole British Empire, for funds to enable the war against cancer to be pressed with increased vigour and on a wider front. The need for such an effort is, we believe, its sufficient justification. Cancer, as the distinguished signatories to this letter point out, "is still the most common single cause of death in persons over thirty years of age, and is becoming so in an increasing degree." It is one of the few diseases which is gaining rather than losing ground in the modern world. Its victims, moreover, are usually men and women in the prime of life, ripe in experience, yet with undiminished capacity of service. So far, unhappily, attempts to probe the secret of its cause or to devise methods of cure have been uniformly unsuccessful. Surgery, it is true, has accomplished much, radiology perhaps even more; but he would be a great optimist who regarded such achievements as satisfying. The gleams of light which have been vouchsafed seem to intensify rather than to illumine our darkness. Nor can it be said that clues have been followed with resolution. Cancer research remains the business of a few scattered investigators or institutions. Sorely hampered by lack of means, they have wrought greatly in the past; but they wage an unequal war. The enemy is stronger than all their powers. It is this fact which endows with so much importance the beginning of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. The campaign is directed primarily to a coordination of present effort. It is designed to equip the fighting men with the weapons they so desperately need. Existing agencies have lent warm support, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the Cancer Hospital Research Institution, and the Middlesex Hospital will take part. A committee of distribution which will command the respect of the whole scientific world will be set up, with nominees from the Royal Society and the Medical Research Council. Their good will, and the fact that the British Red Cross society is organising the appeal, guarantees that every penny will be spent to advantage. Sir Arthur Stanley has "called up" the army of attack; it is for the British people to supply that army with every necessary for this great and beneficent purpose.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Honours even

Sir, I agree entirely with all that the lord speaker, Lord McFall, says about House of Lords appointments (news, May 27), and with your leading article ("The Gong Show", May 27). Except for this — there is a powerful case for knighting or conferring damehoods on certain people on their appointment: High Court judges to give them the additional standing and authority to do their job more effectively; ambassadors when assigned to certain states where traditionally they have been knighted and where the state is otherwise likely to feel devalued. You either accept it or take an absolutist contrary view.

The only surprise about Boris Johnson's approach is that he is not also asking, as in the United States, for powers to pardon chums.
Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood
Retired Supreme Court justice, House of Lords

Sir, Jeremy Prescott (letter, May 29) notes how the lowest tier honour, the British Empire Medal, is probably awarded to some of the most deserving, given that the recipients are often volunteers selflessly dedicating their time for the benefit of communities. My brother-in-law had a similar take on the MBE versus the OBE, noting that the former represented "My Bloody Efforts" as opposed to "Other Buggers' Efforts" for the latter. You can imagine our amusement when he informed us that he was to be awarded an OBE.
Robin Jepps
Broadstairs, Kent

Pole position

Sir, TMS reports (May 30) that Charles Powell, Margaret Thatcher's adviser, pronounces his surname Pole, as he says it is nearer the correct Welsh pronunciation. Powell is derived from ap Hywel (son of Hywel). I can assure Lord Powell of Bayswater that in Wales the name Hywel is not pronounced Hole.
Peter Jones
Beckenham, Kent

Extra baggage

Sir, What is missed by airports is as amazing as what is confiscated (letters, May 26, 27, 29 & 30). I arrived in Madrid with two companions from Heathrow. When we stopped for a drink one friend, looking for his wallet, found two live 12-bore cartridges in an inside pocket of his shooting jacket. Half an hour later the other found his stalking knife, with a 5in blade, tucked under the base of his hand luggage bag. He had "lost" it several months before, and it hadn't been spotted on numerous trips in the meantime.
Rupert Godfrey
Heytesbury, Wilts

Tied up in knots

Sir, The main function of the old school tie (letters May 26 & 30) was the knot in the shorter end to remind one the following morning to take in homework.
Geoffrey Silman
London NW3

Sir, Apropos Alistair Hume's letter, I fear the weakness in the speech by his uncle, Eric Linklater, was that as one ages, one old school tie to hold up one's trousers is insufficient. I now need two.
Jeremy Gee
Périgord, France

Daily Universal Register

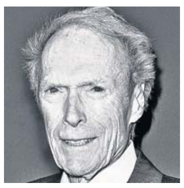
UK: Free trade deals with Australia and New Zealand come into effect; train drivers who are members of the Aslef union go on strike. **Norway**: Nato meeting of foreign ministers.

Nature notes



Even a garden fence can be a home for nature. If you have ever spent any time lounging in a back garden, you may well have noticed a small black and white spider patrolling the fence panels. This is the zebra spider. A creature of open, vertical habitats, such as cliffs and tree trunks, the zebra spider has come to flourish in the built environment of house exteriors, walls and garden fences. They don't spin a web to catch their prey of flies and smaller spiders, but wait patiently for them to come along, and then leap, jumping a distance of 10cm — over 14 times their body length. JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today



Clint Eastwood, *pictured*, actor and director, 93; **Michael Baum**, surgical oncologist, emeritus professor of surgery, University College London, 86; **Tom Berenger**, actor, *Platoon* (1986), 74; **Paul Brakefield**, evolutionary biologist, professor of zoology, University of Cambridge, 71; **Junior Campbell**, musician, co-founder of Marmalade and co-composer of the theme tune for *Thomas the Tank Engine*, 76; **Ben de Lisi**, fashion designer, 68; **Sir Jeremy Dixon**, architect, 84; **Colin Farrell**, actor, *The Banshees of Inisherin* (2022), 47; **Sharon Gless**, actress, *Cagney & Lacey* (1982-88), 80; **Miriam González Durántez**, **Lady Clegg**, founder, Inspiring Girls International, vice-chairwoman, UBS Europe (2019-21), 55; **Leon Haslam**, motorcycle road racer, British Superbike champion (2018), 40; **Tristram Hunt**, director, Victoria and Albert Museum, historian, *The Radical Potter: Josiah Wedgwood and the Transformation of Britain* (2021), Labour MP (2010-17), 49; **Stephen Jones**, milliner, 66; **Prof Dame Angela McLean**, mathematical biologist, UK government chief scientific adviser, 62; **Debbie Moore**, founder-chairwoman, Pineapple Dance Studios, 77; **Viktor Orban**, prime minister of Hungary, 60; **Archie Panjabi**, actress, *The Good Wife* (2009-15), 51; **Guy Parckar**, chief executive, Pharmacy Research UK, 45; **Lord (John) Prescott**, Labour MP (1970-2010), deputy prime minister (1997-2007), 85; **Rob Rinder**, barrister and broadcaster, *Judge Rinder* (2014-20), 45; **June Sarpong**, TV presenter, *Loose Women* (2005-17), director of creative diversity, BBC (2019-22), 46; **Brooke Shields**, actress, *The Blue Lagoon* (1980), 58; **Douglas Stuart**, writer, Shuggie Bain (Booker prize 2020), 47; **Iga Swiatek**, tennis player, world singles No 1, 22; **Lynne Truss**, writer, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* (2003), 68; **Terry Waite**, adviser on Anglican communion affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury (1980-92) who was held hostage in Lebanon from 1987 to 1991, 84; **Peter Winterbottom**, rugby player, England (1982-93), 63; **Peter Yarrow**, singer-songwriter, Peter, Paul and Mary, *Puff, the Magic Dragon* (1963), 85.

On this day

In **1669** Samuel Pepys wrote the last entry in his diary. He had started it in 1660 and it contains more than 1.25 million words.

The last word

"I always say, keep a diary and some day it will keep you." Mae West, actress-screenwriter, in her film *Every Day's a Holiday* (1937)

Stick With It

Trans lobby extremists attempted to prevent Kathleen Stock from speaking at the Oxford Union. They failed, as should all opponents of free speech

The choice of Nancy Sinatra's song *These Boots Are Made For Walkin'* was a crude threat. It blasted out of speakers deployed by extremist members of the trans lobby as Kathleen Stock entered the Oxford Union to take part in a debate yesterday. As admirers of the 1966 hit will recall, it promises: "And one of these days these boots are gonna walk all over you."

In the event, a group of demonstrators who infiltrated the debate, one of them trying unsuccessfully to glue herself to the floor of the debating chamber in front of Dr Stock, did not walk all over the philosopher. Her appearance, which had been threatened with disruption by a hard core of Oxford students opposed to her presence on university premises, went ahead even as protesters outside in the street jeered. It was a victory for free speech in the face of intolerance and intimidation.

Dr Stock maintained her composure, as she has done throughout years of persecution by trans-rights extremists intent on silencing her for the crime of saying that the biological difference between men and women is immutable. And that a man who describes himself as a woman is not a woman, no matter how sincere his desire to be one. For this view, held by the majority of the population, she is hated by those who believe that ideology can trump biology. Those who believe that bullying can silence people who put a quiet life before standing up for the truth.

Dr Stock was driven from her post at Sussex University in 2021 after being subjected to a campaign of intimidation by trans extremists in the student body, while being shunned by academic colleagues who should have come to her defence. The episode leaves a lasting stain on the reputation of Sussex, which like other academic institutions has bowed to the increasingly hysterical demands of the trans lobby.

Hopefully, the tide is beginning to turn. Dr Stock was backed by the prime minister before her appearance in Oxford. Defending the need for tolerance, Rishi Sunak said: "University should be an environment where debate is supported, not stifled. We mustn't allow a small but vocal few to shut down discussion." Quite right.

What is concerning is that Mr Sunak was not joined in this rallying cry by Sir Keir Starmer and Sir Ed Davey. Labour and the Liberal Democrats have both fallen prey to trans-McCarthyism, their leaders locked in an insane belief system that makes it impossible for them to acknowledge the biological sovereignty of women. Dr Stock is not a bigot. She does not hate trans women or want them to be marginalised in society. She believes that they are entitled to legal recognition and protection. But this does not extend to unimpeded access to all female spaces, such as changing rooms and refuges for victims of domestic violence.

She says of her status at the trans lobby's public enemy number one: "It's hard to believe now, but when all this started, I genuinely thought that people didn't understand the issues and if I just explained them, they would concede that transgender women are not women and that facts have to triumph over feelings. It seems terribly naive, but I've learnt you can't change the minds of fanatics."

This week, the government will announce the identity of its "free speech tsar", an academic entrusted with maintaining this most basic of rights on campuses. That this, and the new university free speech act, are necessary is a rebuke to university vice-chancellors and staff for allowing this climate of fear to develop. A small group of Oxford academics broke cover to defend Dr Stock before the debate. But the vast majority were silent.

The glue-wielding demonstrator who wanted to silence Kathleen Stock came unstuck yesterday. Debate was not stifled. Dr Stock has stuck to her principles and should be applauded for doing so.

Drones over Moscow

Kyiv has denied responsibility for the attacks, but it must heed western concerns

After 15 months of war, with increasingly barbaric attacks by Russia on hospitals, schools, power stations and homes, Ukraine has begun to hit back. Missiles and drones have struck deep behind the Russian front line. And Belgorod, a large town in southern Russia, has come under ground attack by a mysterious armed force, made up of supposedly anti-Putin Russians, which stormed across the border from Ukrainian territory. This counter-offensive has now escalated dramatically with Moscow reporting an attack by eight drones on the capital itself. This aerial assault, which can be seen as direct retaliation for heavy Russian drone and missile attacks on Kyiv in recent days, has no doubt bolstered Ukrainian morale. Nonetheless, an incursion into the heart of Russian power is not necessarily wise. It risks alienating Ukraine's western backers, who are anxious to contain the conflict.

The crude drones used in the attack on Moscow, which has clearly rattled President Putin, were not supplied by the West. But this high-profile operation is bound to make Nato leaders nervous, especially President Biden, who has insisted that Ukraine should not use sophisticated arms provided for its defence to attack Russian soil. Nato is committed to help Ukraine defend itself against aggression, the White House reaffirmed last week. But the alliance is not at war with Russia and intends to keep it that way. Ukraine must be mindful of these concerns when, understandably, it seeks to make Russia pay for the indiscriminate bombardment of its population.

Such restraint would clearly disappoint many Ukrainians, as they recover their dead from the rubble of flats destroyed by Russian weapons. After all, what greater humiliation could their homeland inflict on an arrogant Russian leadership and its paranoid president than to lay bare Moscow's vulnerability to low-tech attack?

Kyiv has admitted its delight at news of the strikes but has denied responsibility. The denial is probably disingenuous. It is just about plausible to deny a supervisory role in the Belgorod operation, which may be the action of a dissident force. But the assault on Moscow is less easy to dismiss. That is, of course, unless the drone attacks on the capital were stage-managed by the Kremlin.

The Russians have form in this regard. Mr Putin is widely suspected of having orchestrated the 1999 bombings of Russian apartments that was used as a pretext to resume the Chechen war. Indeed, the Russian response to every atrocity and war crime revealed in Ukraine is to claim that it is stage-managed. Deception is a standard tool in Russia's armoury, including false flag operations.

But if this is a Ukrainian strike, its consequences may not be wholly positive. Many Russians, however uneasy at their country's conduct, have kept their heads down and mouths shut. Mr Putin has counted on this apathy, reinforced by repression, to keep the "special military operation" as far from daily life as possible. But the "terrorist attacks", as they are branded, could be used to claim that Russia is the victim of Nato aggression. This could ignite Russian public opinion in favour of even more extreme measures against the stubborn antagonist to the south. Nato, meanwhile, wants to contain a war that retains the potential to develop into something infinitely more dangerous. There will be concern about Kyiv's escalation, however morally justified it is.

Great Grandmothers

A study offers scientific justification for why having a granny is a good thing

Everybody knows that grannies make life nicer. But a recent study strengthens the evidence that they might make it safer and longer, too.

Grandmothers have long been the focus of scientific research, because they pose an interesting question. Why, if an organism's evolutionary purpose is to reproduce itself, do women live for decades after they cease to be fertile? One might suppose that they would be a burden on the rest of society, by consuming resources without producing extra children. The solution to this conundrum, according to the "grandmother hypothesis", is that they help their children's offspring to survive and flourish. They are thus an evolutionary advantage.

Since in modern society infant mortality is mercifully rare, scientists have turned to poor societies and historical records to test this theory. One study showed that among the Hadza people, hunter-gatherers in northern Tanzania, mothers whose mothers were still alive had more children. Another, using records from 17th-century Quebec, showed that the proximity of a grandmother was crucial to reproductive success. Women living more than 200 miles from their mothers had 1.75 fewer children than those who lived nearby.

The latest such study examined the records of 18th and 19th century Finns. Grandmothers, the study found, increased their grandchildren's survival rates by helping to protect them from the effects of smallpox, lung disease and diarrhoea. No studies suggest a similar grandfather effect.

According to the hypothesis, grannies can also take credit for longer lifespans. Thanks to their care, their long-lived genes did better than those of shorter-lived women and spread through the species. So we have reason to be grateful to all grannies, not just the ones who stuffed us with cake and forgave us everything.

World

Putin condemns ‘terrorist’ drone attacks on Moscow





Russia
Aliide Naylor

Russia has threatened to take “the harshest possible” retaliatory action after a swarm of drones was sent to attack Moscow, for which the Kremlin blamed Ukraine.

Despite being more than 300 miles from the nearest front line in Ukraine, residents in the Russian capital woke to the sound of explosions as air defence missile systems shot down several drones approaching the city.

President Putin condemned the “terrorist” attack on “civilian targets”, which followed waves of Russian air attacks against Kyiv, including drones and missiles, in recent days. “They are provoking us to mirror their actions,” Putin said.

Footage of drones flying over the Russian capital had earlier circulated on social media, raising embarrassing questions over gaps in the country’s air defences. Speaking to state television, Putin accused Ukraine of trying to “frighten” Russians, and said: “Moscow’s air defence system worked satisfactorily, although there is some work to do. We have spoken about hitting command centres [in Ukraine].

“In response, the Kyiv regime has chosen a different path of strikes on residential buildings.”

One drone hit a building on Profsoyuznaya Street in Moscow’s southwest, destroying the façade and the second hit a 24-storey apartment building on Atlasova Street in New Moscow. Further drones were thought to have been shot down over the city’s exclusive Rublyovka suburb, where Putin has an official residence.

Sergei Sobyanin, the city’s mayor, said that the incidents had caused “insignificant damage”, but two people had received medical treatment, though there were no serious injuries. It is the second drone attack on Moscow after Russia claimed that explosions seen over the Kremlin at the start of the month had been a failed attempt to assassinate Putin using two drones.



Describing the latest attack as a Ukrainian response “to our effective strikes”, state media initially appeared keen to play down the incidents.

Russia’s Ministry of Defence said that eight unmanned aerial vehicles had threatened the capital, but were diverted or shot down, contradicting earlier reports that suggested up to 25 drones had been involved.

Russia’s government is blaming Nato and the West for helping Ukraine to escalate the conflict started by Putin in February last year. “Western support for the Kyiv regime is pushing the Ukrainian leadership towards increasingly reckless acts,” the Russian foreign ministry claimed. “Assurances by Nato officials that the Kyiv regime will not launch strikes deep into Russian territory prove completely hypocritical,” it said. “Russia reserves the right to take the harshest possible measures.”

Maxim Ivanov, a politician, called it the most serious assault on Moscow since Nazi Germany’s invasion in the Second World War.

The White House said it was still gathering information on the reports, while reiterating that it did not support attacks inside Russia. Washington was “focused on providing Ukraine with the equipment and training they need to retake their own sovereign territory”, a spokesman said.

Ukrainian officials denied that they were responsible, but on Monday the country’s military had warned it would retaliate against Russia for its incessant bombardments of their own cities.

Kyiv’s military said it had shot down more than 20 drones overnight in what has been a relentless few days of air strikes on the Ukrainian capital. Across the country, four people were killed and 34 injured in Russian attacks.

Analysts suggested that Ukraine’s own UJ-22 and Turkish-made Bayraktar models had the range to reach Moscow, although footage of those photographed over Russia did not match known types.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to President Zelensky, said yesterday: “Regarding the attacks, we are pleased to watch and predict an increase in the number of attacks. But of course we have nothing directly to do with this.”

Downing Street said it was confident that no British-supplied equipment was used in the drone attack on Moscow. Rishi Sunak’s official spokesman said that No 10 “can’t speculate on the origin of the attacks”, adding: “Obviously what we have seen are significant attacks on Kyiv in recent days, including on civilians.”

Kissinger is wrong to cosy up to Putin and Xi, Roger Boyes, page 22
The West’s backing for Kyiv comes with conditions, leading article, page 25

‘Revolution is coming and Tsar must stand down to save his life’

George Grylls
Maxim Tucker Kyiv

Russia is on the brink of a 1917-style revolution and the “Tsar” should stand down to spare his life, an opposition leader has claimed.

“This regime is not solid. It is shaking. There are lots of cracks. Moscow is the heart of the regime and our ultimate plan is to go there,” Ilya Ponomarev, a former MP in the Russian Duma, now living in exile in Ukraine, told The Times as kamikaze drones exploded in the skies above the capital.

“The Tsar will have to go. If he goes now, he has a chance of going to the Hague and surviving,” Ponomarev said.

“If he tries to stay much longer, I don’t know what will happen to him personally. My recommendation for him and his inner circle is to start moving quickly. It’s in their own interests.” Ponomarev, who has ties to the partisans that invaded Belgorod last week, likened the mood in Russia to the revolution of February 1917, but denied that he was trying to start a civil war. “Who started the civil war? Putin did, because he claims Russians and Ukrainians are one nation,” he said.

A prominent Russian military figure has suggested that a coup against Putin by Yevgeny Prigozhin, the founder of the Wagner mercenary group, was under way. Igor “Strelkov” Girkin, the former FSB agent who led Putin’s hybrid invasion of Ukraine in 2014, accused the Wagner group of “declaring war” on the state.



Ilya Ponomarev says President Putin has no choice but to go

“Prigozhin actually openly declared war against part of the military and state nomenclature. Naturally, he is not alone. He has a huge cover, including in the Ozero Co-operative,” Girkin said, referring to the senior officials who live close to Putin in a gated community. “He is a member of the ruling mafia, one of its factions. We are witnessing how one of these factions is disrupting the status quo. A coup attempt has been announced. So far, it has been announced in the media. For now. What will happen next — I don’t know.

“All the more so because Wagner is hastily [withdrawing] to the rear bases. Its rear bases are scattered all over the European part of Russia. From this I conclude that the turmoil has begun. By the end of the summer, the internal political situation in our country may change beyond recognition.”

Prigozhin denied that he was plotting a coup before making another stinging attack on the Ministry of Defence after the attack on Moscow.

“You are the department of defence. Why the f*** are you allowing these drones to fly to Moscow? Let your houses burn!” he said. “Get your shit out of the offices you’ve been put in to defend this country!”

Prigozhin has encouraged a popular perception in Russia that Wagner is responsible for the few Russian successes of the war, including the capture of Bakhmut, at the expense of the Ministry of Defence and ultimately, Putin.

He claimed that he had requested 200,000 troops to win the war in Ukraine but did not receive this force because of fears that he would be able to “come to Moscow in tanks”.

He has openly called for the replacement of Sergei Shoigu, the defence minister, and the general chief of staff, Valery Gerasimov.

He called for the introduction of complete martial law, several subsequent waves of mobilisation, the economic mobilisation of industry and he suggested that Russia should become a totalitarian regime akin to North Korea and close all its borders to achieve victory over Ukraine.





A drone attack on Moscow, including on apartment buildings, below, was described by one politician as the most serious assault on the Russian capital since the Second World War

Partisans recruiting ‘thousands’ of rebels for assault on Kremlin

Maxim Tucker, Marc Bennetts

Russian partisans who attacked Kremlin forces from Ukraine have “thousands” of applicants waiting to join them and will continue raiding the border until their force is large enough to assault Moscow, their leader has said.

“We have serious capabilities,” the commander of the Free Russia Legion, using the call sign Caesar, told The Times. “We have mortars, armoured vehicles, stinger manpads, portable anti-tank systems and a highly effective drone reconnaissance unit.”

The assault last week was the first instance of sustained fighting on Russian territory since the start of the war and the first armed incursion into Russia since border clashes between Soviet and Chinese troops in 1969. It led to the Russian authorities evacuating hundreds of people before the partisans made their way back into Ukraine.

Caesar’s unit was at battalion strength, he said, but had plans to expand as more Russians realised it was possible to fight against President Putin. A battalion is typically made up of between 500 to 1,000 troops. “We will keep performing these harassment raids [so] we have our own piece of Russian territory, so that real Russian sons and daughters, real patriots, will be able to join us,” he said. Caesar, 49, joked that his unit’s weapons had been procured from the online retail services AliExpress and eBay and Russian military shops. He stressed that its members were all Russian citizens, but conceded they served under the Ukrainian armed forces.

“We are not a band of criminals or a private military company like Wagner,” he said. “We fight within the structure of Ukrainian forces. Our main goal and task is the defence of Ukraine and de-occupation of its territories. After that we will go to free our home.”

The raid had been intended to support Ukraine’s counter-offensive while acting as a recruitment campaign and encouraging Russians to depose Putin before the war came to them. “Russians can contact our representatives, pass a thorough background check and selection process and join legion ranks after sufficient training,” Caesar said. “They get to Ukraine through neutral bordering states. We have a steady flow of incoming recruits and it grows. More and more Russian people understand that this war is criminal and it should be stopped.”

Columns of armoured vehicles and Humvees, supported by tanks and artillery, broke through Russian border defences last week from two distinct units, the Free Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps. Although the Corps is dominated by nationalist and right-wing fighters, the Free Russian Legion maintains that it comprises “anarchists, leftwingers and nationalists”, as well as people who had little interest in politics until Russia’s invasion.

The partisans said they were surprised by the disorganised nature of the resistance and the indiscriminate quality of attacks on Russian settlements over the two-day raid. “The FSB units fled after the artillery strikes,” Caesar said. “We took PoWs and captured vehicles. As we pushed deeper into Russia, regular army units were pulled up, including artillery and aviation. We were surprised that — the same as in Chechnya, Syria and Ukraine — they fired indiscriminately on civilian houses. They just fired [where] they thought we might be located.”

Caesar claimed the partisan forces destroyed two Russian mechanised infantry companies, inflicting about 150 casualties, destroying or damaging 20 vehicles and capturing six. The Times could not verify these claims, although the legion promised it would upload video evidence soon. The Kremlin claimed to have killed 70 partisans but provided no evidence of that.

“As we moved deeper we met more fierce resistance,” Caesar said. “It was mostly artillery and fighter jets. We didn’t want to let them destroy settlements completely. We didn’t have the goal to see them in ruins, so after we completed our tasks we began to withdraw.” The group suffered two dead and ten wounded, he said.

Speaking to The Times without a mask from the Ukrainian side of the border, Caesar said that he was not afraid to be targeted by the Kremlin because his family were safe in Ukraine and he was already a wanted man in Russia. He grew up in Sochi, then moved to St Petersburg, where he was a fitness trainer for 20 years. He was a member of two right-wing groups designated terrorist organisations for plotting against the Kremlin: the Russian Imperial Movement and People’s Militia.

Caesar said that the legion was “centrist” despite his past affiliations, but Alexei Baranovsky, a Kyiv-based spokesman for the legion’s political wing, told The Times it had no ideology. “This is a politically neutral organisation,” he said. “It’s only task is to overthrow Putin’s regime.”

The partisans believe Russia is on the brink of a revolution. “Russia is a huge chunk of TNT,” Caesar said. “You can do anything you like with it and it won’t explode, but if you use a small detonator you’ll create a powerful blast. In Ukraine we are preparing a detonator.”

Reckless and autocratic Sánchez fires his last bullet

Spain

Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

The manner in which Pedro Sánchez, Spain’s Socialist prime minister, announced a snap election left his country — and his own ministers — in shock, and underscored a leadership style that even his left-wing allies call reckless and autocratic.

It also surprised King Felipe. In a short, televised statement, Sánchez said he had “held a meeting” with the king to inform him of his decision to dissolve parliament. A source who met the king later that day said that Felipe “mentioned that the prime minister rang him rather than visited him”.

The prime minister’s tenure has been marked by high-stakes gambles. He operates within a small circle of power, and his demeanour has won little popular affection. The decision to shift the election to July from late 2023 was prompted by crushing losses inflicted by conservatives on his ruling Socialist party and Podemos, its hard-left coalition partner, in Sunday’s regional and municipal elections.

The move has gained some support despite being seen as a gambit by Sánchez to save his political career. The left-wing El Pais newspaper said Sánchez had “used his last bullet, but perhaps also the only one available to prevent socialist decline and the agony of the far left”. Analysts said it forced his far-left allies to try to resolve their debilitating divisions and wrong-footed the conservative opposition by tearing up their election campaign timetable.

Sánchez, 51, first came to power in June 2018 by winning a risky confidence vote, the first in Spanish history. The fragility of his first coalition government forced him to call snap elections twice in 2019. The first succeeded but the second failed. He won the election but lost seats and votes and formed the shaky coalition, supported by the far left and Catalan and Basque separatist parties, that has proved so unpopular.

Most of his term has been marked by crisis management. He instigated a tough lockdown during the pandemic that stemmed soaring rates of death and infection. He was quick to put himself in front of a camera when his policies went well but then disappeared when the crisis became complicated.

The opposition labelled him a traitor after he pardoned jailed Catalan pro-independence leaders and abolished the crime of sedition. His democratic memory law, which outlawed the glorification of Franco’s regime, has also proved divisive.

With divisions in his own government dominating the headlines, he has tried to focus on his international profile and the economy, which suffered a record slump in 2020 but posted a solid rebound in 2021-22 after Spain received billions in EU rescue funds.

His policies and his style have now been punished by voters. Reports suggest that Socialist regional “barons” blame Sánchez for their losses and perceive his snap election as him “kidnapping the party”. Yet as Alberto Feijóo, the PP leader, warned his voters, “Sanchismo is not yet dead”.

Chinese warplane 'flew aggressively' close to US surveillance jet

United States
Alistair Dawber Washington

A Chinese fighter pilot performed an "unnecessarily aggressive manoeuvre" close to a US air force surveillance plane over the South China Sea last week, according to the Pentagon.

The incident comes amid heightened tensions between the two superpowers over a number of issues, ranging from Beijing's ambitions over Taiwan, trade and the war in Ukraine. In February the US shot down what it said was a Chinese spy balloon that had flown over American airspace. Beijing said it was a weather satellite blown off course.

The US department of defence last night released a video of the latest incident, which happened last Friday.

Officials stressed that the manoeuvre was not an isolated incident, but instead part of a pattern of behaviour.

The Chinese plane "flew directly in front of and within 400ft of the nose of the RC-135, forcing the US aircraft to fly through its wake turbulence," the Indo-Pacific Command (Indopacom) said.

"The RC-135 was conducting safe and routine operations over the South China Sea in international airspace, in accordance with international law."

The declassified video footage shows a fighter plane crossing in front of the American aircraft, which can be seen shaking from the resulting turbulence.

A senior US defence official said that there has been an "alarming increase in the number of risky aerial intercepts and confrontations at sea" by Chinese aircraft and ships — actions that "have the potential to create an unsafe incident or miscalculation."

"We don't believe it's done by pilots operating independently," the official said. "We believe it's part of a wider pattern."

A similar incident involving a Chinese jet and a US RC-135 took place in December, forcing the American plane "to take evasive manoeuvres to avoid a collision," Indopacom said at the time.

News of the incident comes a day after China rejected a suggestion by the Pentagon of a meeting between Lloyd Austin, the US defence secretary, and his newly appointed Chinese counterpart, Li Shangfu.

Officials had suggested that the meeting take place in the margins of a security conference taking place next week in Singapore.

The senior Pentagon official said the timing of the announcement about the Chinese pilot's behaviour last week was not connected to the declined invitation, adding that details about the incident were "subject to the US military declassification process".

Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, and Wang Yi, a leading Chinese diplomat, met in Vienna earlier this month. President Biden later stressed relations between Washington and Beijing should warm "very soon".

LI GANG/XINHUA/ALAMY; ZHANG XUAN/VCG/GETTY IMAGES





Gui Haichao, left, Jing Haipeng, right, and Zhu Yangzhu before lift-off on the Shenzhou rocket

Beijing sends its first civilian into space

China sent its first civilian astronaut into space when the Shenzhou spacecraft lifted off from a launch pad in the Gobi desert yesterday (Didi Tang writes).

On board was Gui Haichao, 36, a bespectacled professor who is the payload specialist in a crew of three bound for Tiangong, the Chinese space station. "It's so cool to ride a rocket," Gui said as he took off.

Until now all Chinese astronauts — or taikonauts — have been military personnel from the People's Liberation Army, but this mission has been heralded as beginning an era of space experiments by civilian researchers.

The Shenzhou-16 crew lifted off atop a Long March 2F rocket from the Jiuquan satellite launch centre in northwest China. Gui, a professor of aircraft dynamics at Beihang University in Beijing, said at a press conference: "To me, being an astronaut was something that was sacred and remote. I dreamt of conducting the science work that I loved in a space station.

"In 2018, when I learnt our country was recruiting the first cohort of payload specialists, I applied without hesitation. I feel fortunate and happy to have the opportunity to become China's first payload specialist to enter space. Thanks to the space station, there is a new role in space missions and new opportunities for the development of our country's space science."

Also on Shenzhou-16 are Major General Jing Haipeng, 56, who is on his fourth mission, and Colonel Zhu Yangzhu, 36, an aerospace engineer travelling to space for the first time.

Gui's main responsibility is the management, maintenance and repair of the payload, operating equipment and controlling conditions for experiments. He will also collect, sort and analyse data.

His launch has generated much interest in China, including many people noting that someone wearing glasses has become a taikonaut. In 2003 Yang Liwei who, was the first Chinese man to reach space, told state media that payload specialists did not need good eyesight.

Since Yang first reached orbit, China has carried out ten manned missions. It plans to make a manned landing on the moon by 2030.

Lula welcomes Maduro back in from cold

Brazil
Stephen Gibbs Caracas

President Lula da Silva of Brazil has declared a "new era" in his country's ties with Venezuela as he welcomed his Venezuelan counterpart to Brasilia, drawing criticism from opponents who accused him of giving state honours to a dictator.

Warmly hugging President Maduro, Lula declared that the historic meeting represented "the start of Maduro's return". The US government is offering a $15 million bounty for information leading to Maduro's arrest

The Venezuelan leader, widely accused of rigging an election in 2018 to stay in power, along with human rights abuses and gross mismanagement of the country's economy, responded that "Brazil and Venezuela must be united, from now on and always".

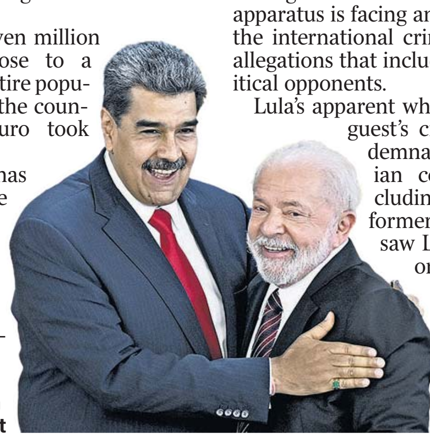
Brazil formally cut diplomatic ties with the Maduro government under Lula's conservative predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, who in 2019 joined the United States and almost 60 other countries in recognising opposition leader Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's interim president after the 2018 election. Ties were restored shortly after Lula took office in January this year.

During a press conference in Brasilia on Monday, Lula dismissed criticism of Maduro as part of a "constructed narrative", rather than based on fact.

He also portrayed sanctions on the Venezuelan regime, imposed by the US and others, as unjustified and only in place because two governments "don't get on".

More than seven million Venezuelans, close to a quarter of the entire population, have left the country since Maduro took office in 2013.

Venezuela has been through one of the steepest economic collapses in history, much of it blamed on corruption and mismanagement. The regime's security apparatus is facing an investigation by the international criminal court over allegations that include torture of political opponents.



The meeting of Maduro and Lula angered the right

Lula's apparent whitewashing of his guest's crimes drew condemnation from Brazilian conservatives, including Sergio Moro, a former judge who oversaw Lula's prosecution on corruption charges. "Brazil is back to welcoming South American dictators with state honours," he said on Twitter.

Since taking office, Lula, who served two previous terms as president in the early 2000s, has offered himself as a broker to help solve the world's more protracted problems, including the war in Ukraine.

But his position as a neutral peacemaker has been questioned in Kyiv after he claimed Ukraine shared the blame for starting the conflict.

Some have argued that the former union leader's cosying up to Maduro means he will also be unable to negotiate in the Venezuelan crisis.

"Lula has positioned himself as one of Venezuela's key-allies … that basically excludes Brazil from any potential mediating role in Venezuela," Professor Oliver Stuenkel, a Sao Paulo-based political scientist, wrote.

Pleasure boat in fatal sinking was hosting a party for spies

Italy
Tom Kington Rome
Anshel Pfeffer

A pleasure boat that sank with the loss of four lives after being caught in a powerful storm on an Alpine lake was hosting a party for Italian and Israeli spies.

The Gooduria, which flipped over on Lake Maggiore in northern Italy on Sunday, is also thought to have been overloaded. It was carrying 21 passengers and two crew, which was eight more than its 15-person limit, Italian media reported.



The Gooduria flipped and sank during a wind "downburst" on Lake Maggiore

Italian and Israeli intelligence officials, some retired, had chartered the 52-foot boat for a trip to an island for a birthday lunch, the reports said. It was caught up in howling winds and hail as they returned to the shore.

Experts have blamed a "downburst", a strong downward wind during a storm that radiates outwards in all directions when it hits the surface.

Among the dead were two members of Italy's AISE national intelligence agency — Tiziana Barnobi, 53 and Claudio Alonzi, 62 — as well as Shimoni Erez, 53, a former Israeli Mossad agent. The fourth victim was Anna Bozhkova, 50, the Russian wife of the boat's captain, Claudio Carminati.

In a statement, AISE said that Barnobi and Alonzi were "taking part in a convivial meeting organised to celebrate the birthday of one of the group".

Erez's body was found floating by rescuers while the bodies of the other three were found trapped inside the vessel by divers after it settled on the bottom of the lake at a depth of 15 metres.

The surviving Italian and Israeli intelligence agents swam to the shore or were picked up by passing boats. They were later spirited away from their hotels or from hospitals treating them, in an apparent effort to protect their anonymity, it was reported. A private Israeli business jet frequently chartered by Mossad took off early on Monday morning from Milan

Speculation grew on Tuesday over whether the agents were combining business with pleasure. Italian media claimed that the boat trip came at the end of an official visit to Italy by the Israeli spies.

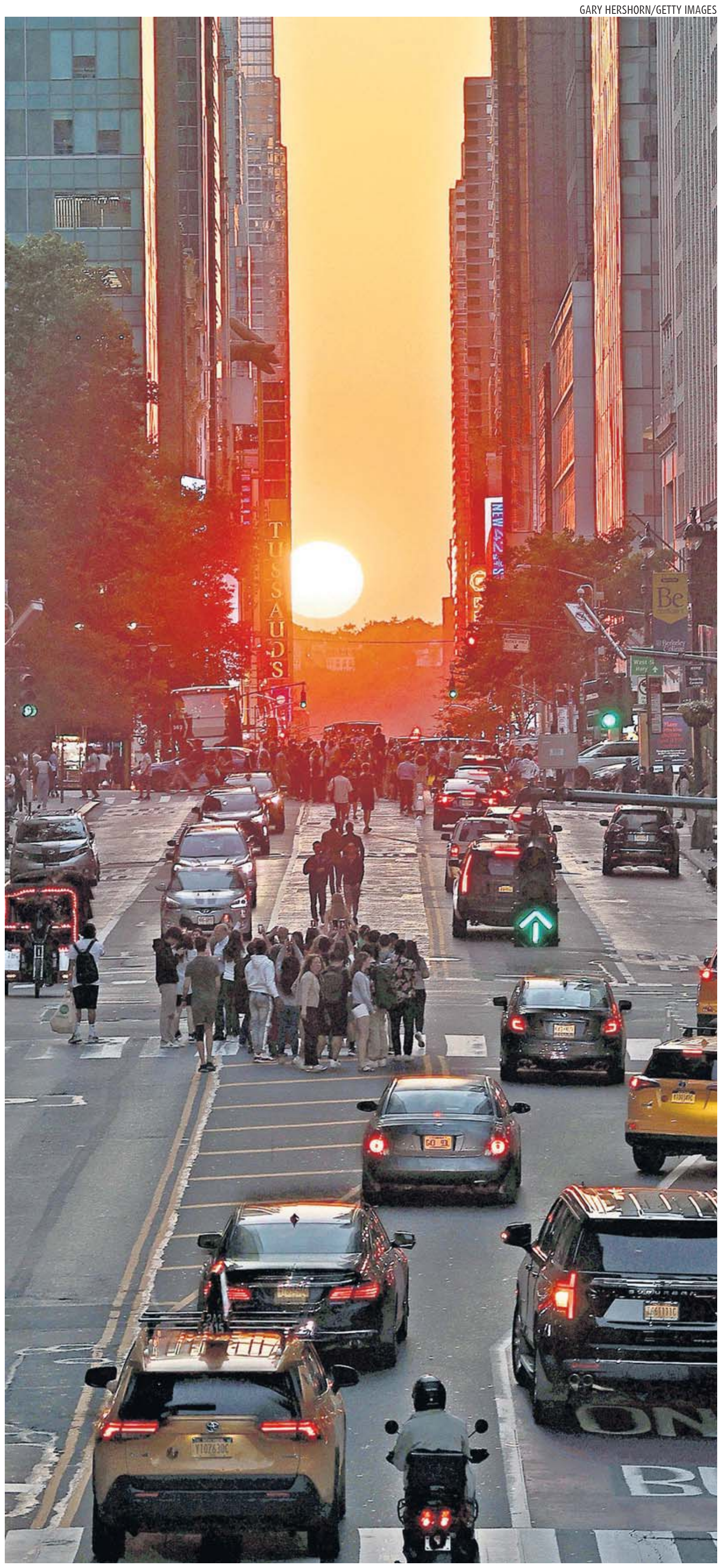
A magistrate is expected to look into claims that the captain was responsible for the incident, which took place at 7.20pm on Sunday, after he apparently ignored an alert issued at 5.30pm warning boats on the lake to return to port.

Franco Lora, a local resident who witnessed the sinking, said: "I heard desperate shouts for help and saw many people swimming in the freezing water."

Daniele Piccaluga, who works in a shipyard at the lake, told the Corriere della Sera: "I immediately went out in my motorboat but there was no sign of the boat, it had been swallowed by the lake, leaving pieces of wood and seats floating on the surface."

Alonzi's cousin Maria, 73, who lives near the father of two's home in Alatri, east of Rome, said she had no idea he was an intelligence agent, adding that he was "extremely reserved". She told Corriere della Sera: "He left for work in Rome early and came home very late. He spoke very little of his work. I thought he was a bodyguard for a minister."

GARY HERSHORN/GETTY IMAGES



City Solstice **New Yorkers stop on 42nd Street on Monday evening to watch "Manhattanhenge", a phenomenon that occurs on only four days a year when the sunset or sunrise is in alignment with the city's streets running west to east**

Disneyland Paris staff storm castle

France
Adam Sage Paris

A parade of a different sort was held at Disneyland Paris on Monday as workers marched on Sleeping Beauty Castle to demand a pay rise.

Unions said that more than 1,000 staff downed tools during the morning shift and hundreds more in the afternoon after workers rejected a management offer of a €125 (£108) bonus ahead of pay talks that are due to open next month. A similar one-day action disrupted operations at the park last week.

Visitors expecting to see Mickey Mouse were greeted by the sight of protesters, some waving flags others clad in the yellow vests that were the symbol of the working-class uprising against President Macron in 2018 and 2019.

David Charpentier, deputy general secretary of the local branch of the Independent Tourism Union, said the protest march had proved a popular alternative to Peter Pan and the other characters that feature in the usual parade.

He added: "Some visitors went on their way without saying anything, but those who stopped all wanted to encourage us. We had people from England, France and Germany who stopped to say, 'We're with you. Stand firm'. They all had a nice word for us."

Charpentier said the Disneyland Paris attractions had remained open and "everyone could see our aim was not to block the park or bother the visitors". However, media outlets said that some shows had to be cancelled, while a princess turned up late for another.

Charpentier said that the industrial action had been initiated by staff who did not belong to unions but were "fed up" with pay and conditions at Disneyland Paris, which employs about 17,000 people, known as "cast members".

"Salaries are not keeping pace with inflation," he said, adding that anger had been fuelled by the introduction of rotas that gave personnel no say in when they worked. "You might work ten hours one day and four the next," he said. Charpentier said that staff also wanted better pay for working on Sundays.

Managers at the attraction said that staff had enjoyed a 9 per cent rise since January 2022 plus two bonus payments of €500 each. They said that prices in the staff canteen had also been frozen to offset the impact of inflation.

Charpentier said that the park's proposal of a further €125 bonus next month was "not nearly enough".

Mountaineer missing on Himalayan peak

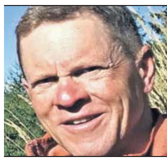
Germany
Oliver Moody Berlin

A prominent German mountaineer has gone missing in the Himalayas during an apparent attempt to ski down the upper reaches of Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain.

Luis Stitzinger, 54, an experienced guide with a speciality in ski descents, was last seen making his way down from the mountaintop last Thursday.

He is said to have made the ascent of the mountain, near the Nepalese-Indian border, with a group of other seasoned climbers, reaching the 8,586m (28,169ft) summit at about 5pm local time. He was not carrying bottled oxygen.

Four hours later, after nightfall, a team of sherpas running the base camp received Stitzinger's last radio message, saying that he was at an altitude of



Luis Stitzinger was last seen heading down the peak

about 8,300m and planned to ski down to the next camp, at 7,600m or so. He did not arrive. A climber from his party, Flower Waganku Wayta Hirkawarmi, raised the alarm the following morning.

The search has been hampered by technological glitches and bad weather. Stitzinger's Garmin inReach, a satellite-linked communication and GPS device, has been silent. Stefan Nestler, a German journalist and mountaineer who is in touch with Stitzinger's wife, said the live location tracker was not working and might have run out of battery.

Seven Summit Treks, the Nepalese tour operator supporting the expedition, initially planned to fly a group of sherpas by helicopter to Camp 2, at a height of roughly 6,400m, from where they would search for the mountaineer.

The mission was delayed by fog and the helicopter reached base camp on Monday morning. The four-man team was expected to reach the highest section of Kanchenjunga today.

Before this expedition, Stitzinger had reached the summits of eight of the 14 "eight-thousanders" — peaks more than 8,000m in height — without oxygen and made two ascents of Everest, in 2019 and 2022. Kanchenjunga was to be the ninth.

Stitzinger's group made their first attempt to get to the summit on May 18 but took the wrong route and had to return to base camp. Stitzinger made the second attempt after only three days of rest at base camp.

Coastguard seizes Chinese ship 'looting British wrecks'

Malaysia
Gavin Blair Tokyo

A Chinese ship has been seized by the Malaysian coastguard on suspicion of looting the sunken wrecks of two British naval vessels from the Second World War.

The dredger Chuan Hong 68 was detained on Sunday for anchoring in Malaysian waters in the South China Sea illegally. Items believed to be ammunition shells from HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse were found on board, and the ship's crew was being questioned over the alleged plundering of metals including sought-after "pre-war steel", Malaysian officials said.

"Our investigation is now directed to where these cannon shells originated from. We have officers from multi-agencies searching the ship," Nurul Hizam Zakaria, the chief of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, said.

There have been a number of reported cases of wartime shipwrecks in the South China Sea being plundered during the past decade, including up to six British vessels. The Ministry of Defence has called for an end to the "desecration of any maritime military grave".

The Prince of Wales and the Repulse were sunk by Japanese torpedoes, with the loss of nearly 850 sailors, about 70 miles off Malaysia on December 10, 1941. Winston Churchill wrote in his memoirs after hearing of the sinkings, three days after the attack on Pearl Harbor: "In all the war, I never received a more direct shock."

ELLIOT MCGUCKEN/ANIMAL NEWS AGENCY



High colour The Carrizo Plain National Monument, 100 miles north of Los Angeles on the San Andreas Fault, has erupted in a "superbloom" of purple phacelia, yellowray goldfields and red and orange poppies

High-rollers only: Sin City prices out poorer punters

United States
Keiran Southern Los Angeles

There was a time, when the mob ran Las Vegas, that you could dine on steak and lobster for a few bucks, see a show for a few more, and though the house would probably win, there was a sporting chance of turning the tables on the casinos.

Today, however, even losing your shirt in Sin City is becoming difficult for rank-and-file gamblers, if they are allowed to play at all. Casinos are making it more expensive to play and harder to win as part of an effort to create a more upmarket destination.

Locals say the days of working-class punters rubbing shoulders with high-rollers may be coming to an end as bosses chase wealthier gamblers who will spend more in hotels and restaurants.

"You're bringing in higher-value customers, and we're already full," Tom Reeg, the chief executive of Caesars Entertainment, told Wall Street analysts this month. "So, you're kicking out the lowest end. I see no reason that needs to stop or would stop."

Las Vegas roared back from the pandemic, with casinos making almost $8.3 billion in gambling revenue last year, a record despite visitor numbers still falling short of 2019 levels. Visitors have been spending more money as the cost of hotels, concerts and food has risen sharply, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Bosses on the Strip are attempting to make even more money. While blackjack has historically paid out at a ratio of 3:2 when a player hits 21 on the first two cards — meaning a gambler wins $15 for every $10 bet — many tables now pay out 6:5. That means the same $10 bet nets only $12.

Casinos have cut the number of blackjack tables with dealers, which are more expensive to run, raised minimum bets during peak times and subtly shifted the odds in their favour by adding another zero to roulette tables, thereby making it even more likely that the house will win.

The moves appear to be working, with blackjack players losing almost $1 billion to casinos on the Strip last year, the second-highest loss on record after 2007.

Aside from the worsening odds, frequent visitors to Las Vegas have noticed small but significant shifts elsewhere. The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported last month that locals had complained about the demise of free parking at many casinos on the Strip while the old-school tradition of gamblers being served free drinks while watching sports events has also disappeared.

Bill Zender, a casino consultant, told the Journal that while punters may not notice any changes immediately, Las Vegas risked losing visitors in the long run. "If you go into a casino and gamble, and you lose your money fairly quickly, almost every time, you don't feel you're getting the bang for your buck," Zender said.

Manson family killer hopes for parole

Keiran Southern

Leslie Van Houten, one of the followers of Charles Manson, should be released on parole after spending more than 50 years in prison for taking part in two murders, a California appeals court has ruled.

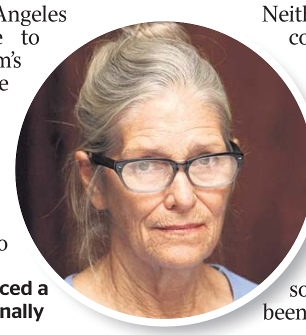
Van Houten, 73, was 19 when she and other members of the so-called Manson family broke into the Los Angeles home of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca and stabbed them dozens of times in August 1969.

Those murders took place a night after the actress Sharon Tate, who was pregnant, was murdered alongside four others at the home of the film director Roman Polanski, her husband, in a massacre directed by Manson. Van Houten has been recommended for parole five times since 2016 but Gavin Newsom, the California governor, has overruled the board and denied her release.

Now, the Second District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles ruled two to one to reverse Newsom's decision, saying there is "no evidence to support the governor's conclusions" about Van Houten's fitness for parole.

They added that Van Houten, who originally faced a death sentence, has "shown extraordinary rehabilitative efforts".

Rob Bonta, the California attorney-general, could ask the state's Supreme Court to block her release. Neither he nor Newsom has commented on the appeals court ruling. Nancy Tetreault, Van Houten's attorney, said she expects Bonta to ask the state Supreme Court to review the lower court's decision, a process that could take years. Manson died in 2017 having been denied parole 12 times.



Leslie Van Houten faced a death sentence originally

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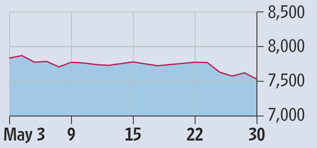
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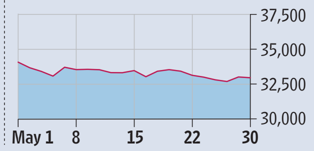
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
7,522.07 (-105.13) ▼

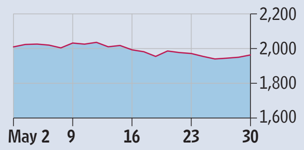


Dow Jones
33,042.78 (-50.56) ▼

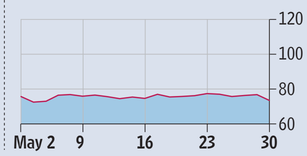


COMMODITIES

Gold
$1962.33 (+11.63) ▲

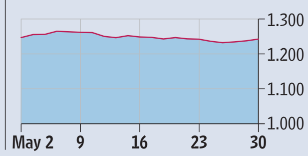


Brent crude (6pm)
$73.69 (-3.11) ▼

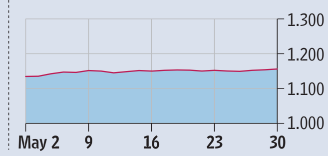


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£/€
€1.1567 (+0.0029) ▲



Nvidia joins the $1trn club as investors buy into the story of AI

Ben Martin

Nvidia has become the first chip manufacturer to be valued at $1 trillion as investors pile into the Silicon Valley company amid expectations that it will be a big winner from the boom in artificial intelligence.

Shares in the California-based technology company rose by 4.8 per cent to $408.13 in afternoon trading yesterday, propelling it into an elite group of businesses worth more than $1 trillion that includes Amazon, Apple and Alphabet, the Google owner. They closed up 3 per cent, or $11.65, at $401.11, valuing the company at about $992 billion.

The milestone cements Nvidia's status as a stock market darling riding a wave of rapid developments in the AI industry.

The company is a supplier of chips that are central to emerging AI technologies including ChatGPT, the chatbot that has caused a sensation since its release in November. Last week Nvidia astonished the stock market with its forecast for quarterly revenues, saying it expected sales in the three months to the end of July of $11 billion. This far surpassed the $7.2 billion expected by analysts, with the outlook bolstered by rising demand for AI. The news drove a 24 per cent rise in Nvidia shares in one day.

Excitement about its prospects was stoked further when Jensen Huang, its Taiwanese-American chief executive, unveiled a new suite of AI-linked products, including its DGX GH200 supercomputer platform, on Monday.

Huang, 60, co-founded the business in 1993 as an innovator in video games graphics. It now dominates the market for graphics processing units, which it invented, and its GPUs are at the heart of its push into AI.

It was listed on the technology-focused Nasdaq market at $12 a share in January 1999 and by the end of its first day of trading it was valued at about $626 million. Its shares have risen by more than 175 per cent this year.

Geir Lode, head of global equities at Federated Hermes, a shareholder in Nvidia, said: "Teaching computers to become intelligent requires extremely powerful processing capacity. Nvidia is currently the only game in town."

Tempus, page 40

Issa brothers seal £2.3bn Asda tie-up

Petrol forecourts deal adds to group's debt pile

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

The billionaire Issa brothers have agreed to sell EG Group's UK and Ireland petrol and forecourt operations to Asda in a £2.3 billion deal that will add £770 million in new loans on to the business empire's already heavy debts.

Asda is Britain's third largest supermarket and, like EG Group, is owned by Zuber and Mohsin Issa and TDR Capital, the private equity group.

The long-awaited tie-up is expected to create a combined business worth about £10 billion and will allow the supermarkets chain to expand further into convenience retail.

However, to fund the deal Asda is raising £450 million from shareholders including the Issa brothers and TDR Capital and is borrowing £770 million through the loan market. A further £1.1 billion will be raised through the sale and leaseback of Asda superstores, adding new financial liabilities on to the business.

The entirety of EG Group, which also operates in the United States and Australia, ended 2022 with net debt of $9.6 billion, while Asda ended the year with £4 billion of debt.

Clive Black, an analyst at Shore Capital, said the debt level was "very high compared with key market competitors", which would make it harder to be competitive on price at a time when rising interest rates were making debts more costly to service and competition was increasing from Aldi and Lidl, the German-owned discounters.

The GMB union has raised concerns that the "debt-laden" merger could threaten food supplies, increase fuel prices and benefit only the "super-wealthy elite". It said that the deal required scrutiny from the Competition and Markets Authority.

Lord Rose of Monewden, who will chair both businesses, said the deal would "not lead to higher prices as a result of this transaction. That is rubbish." He said the business would have a "fully sustainable capital structure" and that adding profits from EG's UK forecourts would help to service its debts.

The EG Group debt is due to be refinanced in 2025, when interest rates are likely to be much higher. The company said the plan for its existing maturities would unfold in due course, adding that it could not have reduced the debts without the merger deal as it did not have "the capability" in the business.

The CMA said the ultimate owners of Asda were the same owners in the same proportion of ownership as EG Group and therefore the merger would not qualify for a review.

Rose, 74, said the acquisition would create a "consumer champion like the UK has never seen" and would help the retailer in its ambition of overtaking Sainsbury's to become Britain's second biggest grocer. The combined group is expected to serve about 21 million customers a week and will have revenues of nearly £30 billion. Asda will now operate about 640 supermarkets, 700 petrol forecourts and 1,000 takeaways. All the EG sites acquired will be rebranded as Asda.

It has to be Asda says EG, pages 32-33

GO NAKAMURA/REUTERS



Elizabeth Holmes arrives at prison in Texas yesterday to begin serving her prison sentence for defrauding investors

Theranos founder starts 11-year jail term

Arthi Nachiappan

Elizabeth Holmes, the founder of Theranos, the failed blood-testing company, turned herself in to authorities at an all-female minimum security prison in Bryan, Texas, last night to begin her 11-year sentence for fraud.

Holmes, 39, founded Theranos in Silicon Valley, California, in 2003. It promised to revolutionise healthcare with technology that it said required only a few drops of blood to conduct dozens of medical tests. Investors ploughed hundreds of millions of dollars into the business, which at its peak was valued at $9 billion.

The company closed in 2018 amid questions over the capability of its technology, the reality of its operations and the reliability of its test results. Its proprietary devices could handle only a fraction of the tests that had been claimed, commercial machines were in widespread use despite denials and concerns grew among some practitioners over the accuracy of results.

Holmes, who lives in San Diego with her partner, Billy Evans, and children William and Invicta, aged two and three months, was convicted of defrauding investors last January.

At a separate trial, Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, her former boyfriend, 57, was convicted of defrauding investors and patients and was sentenced to 12 years and 11 months in prison. He started serving this sentence last month. Holmes and Balwani have been ordered to pay $452 million in restitution to investors. It is not clear if either of them will be able to pay in full.

Lawyers for Holmes, who initially was due to report to prison on April 27, asked an appeals court on April 25 to pause her sentence. She was given the new date to report to prison this month.

She arrived at the prison with Evans and her parents stood by her side before she walked inside with officials. The judge recommended that Holmes is allowed visits from her family on weekends and holidays.

Holmes recently told The New York Times, in her first interview in seven years, that she planned to continue working on healthcare-related inventions behind bars. "I still dream about being able to contribute in that space," she said.

Need to know

1 The gulf between the number of electric vehicles on the road and public charge points has more than doubled in parts of the country in a year, industry figures obtained by The Times show, casting a shadow over the government's attempt to boost the uptake of EVs. **Page 1**

2 New analysis by the Institute for Economic Affairs think tank, which ranked 30 European countries for how tightly they regulate smoking, food and drink, found the UK and Ireland had the joint most liberal laws on e-cigarettes, with a lack of restrictions on advertising and no specific taxes on vapes. **Page 4**

3 The billionaire Issa brothers have agreed to sell EG Group's UK and Ireland petrol and forecourt operations to Asda in a £2.3 billion deal that will add £770 million in new loans on to the business empire's heavy debts. Asda is Britain's third largest supermarket and, like EG Group, is owned by Zuber and Mohsin Issa and TDR Capital, the private equity group. **Page 31**

4 Nvidia has become the first chipmaker to be valued at $1 trillion as investors piled into the California-based technology company amid expectations it will be a big winner from an artificial intelligence boom. **Page 31, Tempus, page 40**

5 Elizabeth Holmes, the founder of the failed blood-testing company Theranos, has turned herself in to authorities at Bryan, Texas, a minimum-security federal prison camp, to begin her 11-year sentence for fraud. **Page 31**

6 The board of one of Britain's biggest business lobby groups is seeking legal advice to prepare for a prospective insolvency filing before a vote on its future by thousands of its members next week. The CBI has hired an unnamed City law firm to provide advice on directors' duties under company law.

7 Inflation will not return to the Bank of England's 2 per cent target for three years, according to new Goldman Sachs forecasts that said interest rates could exceed 5 per cent. **Page 34**

8 An online barristers' business that offers a "reimagined" bar without physical chambers has attracted £10 million of private equity investment. Executives at The Barrister Group confirmed that LDC, the private equity division of Lloyds Banking Group, had invested an "eight-figure sum". **Page 36**

9 Jonathan Bloomer, who had a stormy time running Prudential, the insurance company, is to lead the board of Hiscox. Bloomer, 69, will take up his post as chairman of the Lloyd's of London insurer in July. **Page 37**

10 Office construction in London's West End is outpacing the City for the first time as demand from financial services trails other sectors. Research by Deloitte shows the volume of space being developed in the Square Mile business district is close to its lowest level in at least eight years. **Page 39**

It has to be Asda to cut debts, says EG Group

Owners tout £2.3bn deal as clever financial engineering, but critics warn of higher prices, writes **Isabella Fish**

The scale of the debt burden looming over the Issa brothers — the billionaire owners behind Asda and EG Group, the petrol station business — has led to a long-awaited deal, putting the two companies together.

Mohsin and Zuber Issa have agreed to sell EG Group's UK and Ireland operations to Asda in a £2.3 billion tie-up. The combination helps to mend EG Group's balance sheet, but leaves the supermarkets chain with added costs by adding £770 million in new loans to the group's business.

The brothers — Mohsin, 51, and Zuber, 50 — have been left with a debt burden at EG Group, a petrol station empire that also operates in America, Australia and continental Europe, after an acquisition spree. The group ended 2022 with net debt of $9.6 billion, equivalent to almost seven times its earnings before interest, taxes and other charges covering depreciation and amortisation (ebitda).

Moody's, the credit rating agency, warned this year that "negative rating pressure could develop" if EG Group did not produce a plan for alleviating a debt that starts to mature in 2024 and is due to be refinanced by 2025, at a time when interest rates have risen sharply.

The Issas had been exploring options to reduce EG Group's debt. Last month the group sold 415 stores on America's east coast in a sale and leaseback deal worth $1.5 billion. Selling the UK and Ireland business, which operates 1,000 convenience stores and 350 filling stations, gives the brothers some wiggle room, as it cuts EG's debt to a more comfortable five times ebitda.

However, the deal looks less attractive for Asda, which the brothers bought for £6.8 billion in 2021 from Walmart in a debt-fuelled deal. The GMB union has raised concerns that it places part of that debt on to Asda, which is already about £4 billion in debt, and could lead to increased fuel prices and threaten food supply.

To fund the deal, Asda is raising £450 million from shareholders, including the brothers and TDR Capital, the private equity firm, and is borrowing £770 million through the loan market. It is also selling £1.1 billion of property and leasing it back, adding new financial liabilities on to the business and saddling the supermarkets chain with rent payments that make it less nimble in the competitive British market. This leaves its headline debt unchanged at 4.3 times ebitda.

In exchange, Asda is getting an extra £195 million of ebitda a year, a promise of vague synergies, which the brothers have suggested could reach £100 million, and the property underpinning the petrol stations.

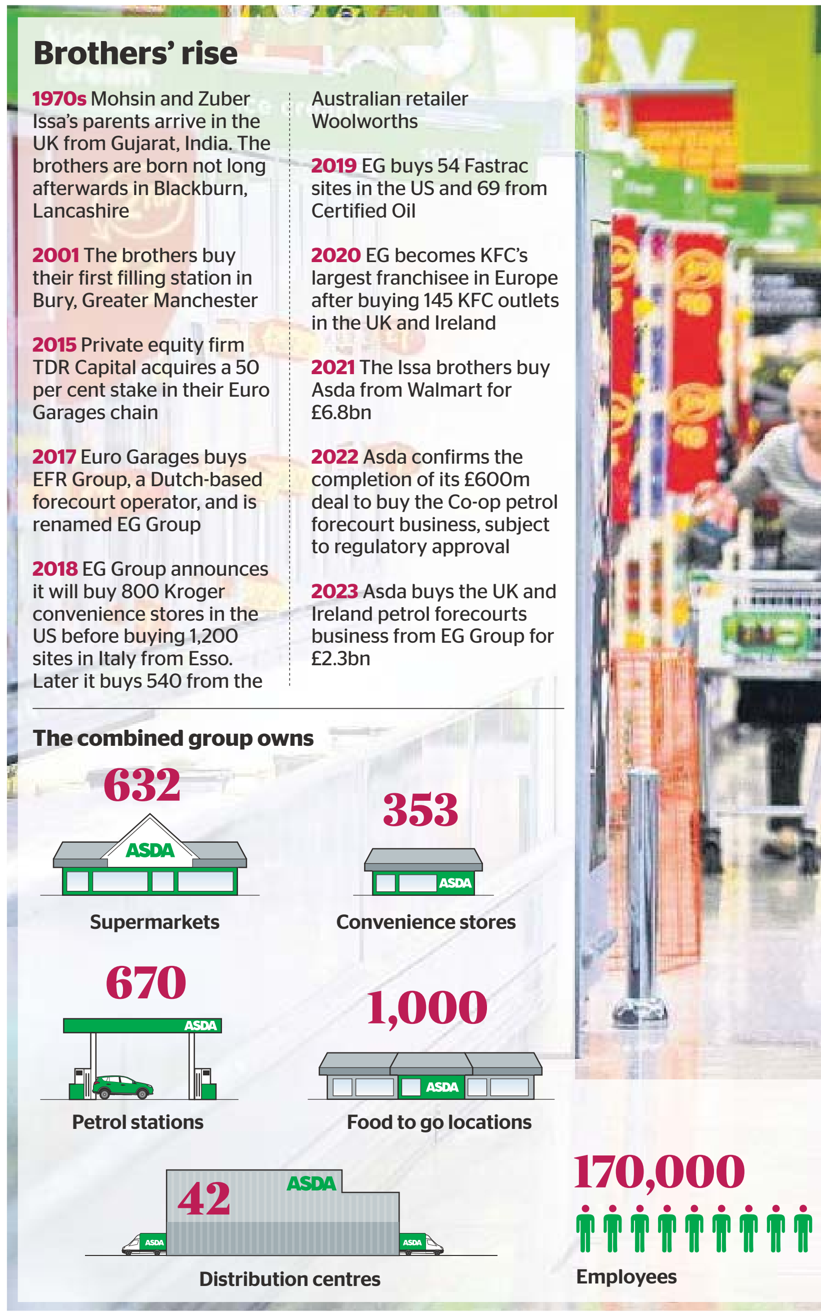
The deal has been touted as a clever piece of financial engineering to help EG Group to get its debts down. EG Group said it would not have been able to bring them down without the merger as it did not have "the capability" in the business.

"People find it hard to understand that if you have the same shareholders for two businesses, that they can be separate companies, but they have separate bondholders and separate obligations," a source said. "For example, if you're trying to negotiate with a food service company or an oil major, they won't say, 'It's fine, you have another business down the road, we'll treat it under one contract.' So, by owning and bringing together the two businesses, it benefits both companies."

Lord Rose of Monewden, 74, who will chair both businesses, said the main driver of the merger "was creating a business by bringing in convenience and scaling up. If, as a consequence, you have an option of deleveraging, then what's the problem?" He said the business would have a "fully sustainable capital structure" and that adding profits from EG's UK petrol station would help to service its extra debts.

Orwa Mohamad, an analyst at Third Bridge, an investment adviser, said the primary driver of the deal was the need for debt refinancing: "The merger appears to be the most logical option when weighed against the costs associated with alternative actions. Without this merger, EG Group would have to either refinance its debt in considerably more expensive debt markets or opt for listing on the equity markets, albeit at a lower valuation than the potential that could be attained."

The tie-up also brings scale. Asda will now operate 632 supermarkets, 670 petrol stations and 1,000 takeaways, including large franchises for KFC and



Brothers' rise

1970s Mohsin and Zuber Issa's parents arrive in the UK from Gujarat, India. The brothers are born not long afterwards in Blackburn, Lancashire

2001 The brothers buy their first filling station in Bury, Greater Manchester

2015 Private equity firm TDR Capital acquires a 50 per cent stake in their Euro Garages chain

2017 Euro Garages buys EFR Group, a Dutch-based forecourt operator, and is renamed EG Group

2018 EG Group announces it will buy 800 Kroger convenience stores in the US before buying 1,200 sites in Italy from Esso. Later it buys 540 from the Australian retailer Woolworths

2019 EG buys 54 Fastrac sites in the US and 69 from Certified Oil

2020 EG becomes KFC's largest franchisee in Europe after buying 145 KFC outlets in the UK and Ireland

2021 The Issa brothers buy Asda from Walmart for £6.8bn

2022 Asda confirms the completion of its £600m deal to buy the Co-op petrol forecourt business, subject to regulatory approval

2023 Asda buys the UK and Ireland petrol forecourts business from EG Group for £2.3bn

Home Reit inquiry reveals 'lack of transparency'

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

A fund management company behind a scandal-hit property investment trust that raised £740 million from investors has been accused of disguising rent arrears and of secretly releasing a developer from refurbishment obligations.

Home Reit, which specialises in housing for the homeless, said after hiring corporate investigators that Alvarium Home Reit Advisors, its former manager, had failed to bring several matters to its attention. It said a "lack of transparency" had "hampered the board's ability to assess the medium-term financial strength of its tenant base and the ability of its tenants to pay rent".

It also said the manager had provided "inaccurate information" to an outside body, The Good Economy, a consultancy that had been responsible for assessing the trust's social, environmental and economic impact.

The London-listed Home Reit has been under scrutiny since November, when it was the subject of a bear raid by Viceroy Research, a short-seller that claimed there were problems in its business model, including conflicts of interest and property overvaluations. Its shares fell sharply and were suspended in January at 38p. Alvarium was effectively replaced last week by AEW UK Investment Management.

Home Reit said Alvarez & Marsal, the corporate investigator, had uncovered "different methods" used by Alvarium, "which gave the appearance that rents were being settled in the normal course by tenants, but which were not from sustainable cashflow sources and were not paid or collected in the form of rent". They also found that some of the company's tenants had released a key developer from their "liability to complete refurbishment works".

The investigation could find only "limited evidence" of monitoring of tenants by Alvarium Home Reit Advisors. It was part of the Alvarium group, an investment bank and wealth manager. In 2021 Alvarium announced plans to merge with Tiedemann Group, of the United States, in a combination now called AlTi Tiedemann Global. Alvarium Home Reit Advisors is understood to have been spun out as an independent business on December 31, 2022. It had been run by Jamie Beale and Gareth Jones. Beale quit a year ago for "personal reasons", while Jones stepped back in November for "health reasons".

A separate entity, Alvarium Fund Managers, is the official alternative investment fund manager to Home Reit and as such usually would be responsible for overseeing valuations and checking that rules have been followed. The fund manager is owned by AlTi Tiedemann and is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Home Reit said it had evidence "that certain allegations were made by third parties to Alvarium Home Reit Advisors about the affairs of the company which were not properly investigated".

The Alvarium group floated Home Reit in September 2020, offering investors the chance to back accommodation for the homeless while receiving a potential yield of 7.5 per cent. The offer raised £350 million and it subsequently tapped shareholders twice more.

A provisional takeover offer for Home Reit at 40p per share by Bluestar Group, a property company run by a former Alvarium executive, fell through this month.

AlTi Tiedemann Global was approached for comment.



Brands now under combined group

- Asda food
- George clothing
- Gooplands
- Leon



Mohsin and Zuber Issa bought Asda from Walmart for £6.8 billion in 2021, in a deal fuelled by debt

Subway. All of the EG sites acquired will be rebranded as Asda: 166 have already been renamed "Asda on the Move".

Mohsin Issa, who will continue to lead the business, said the deal would let him offer "Asda's highly competitive fuel" to even more customers.

Asda said it had begun a search for new chief executive. It also will hire more non-executive directors to strengthen its governance.

Rose rejects 'clumsy' food prices cap

Isabella Fish

One of Britain's best-known retail leaders has criticised "clumsy" government plans to impose 1970s-style price caps on food staples to cut the cost of living.

Baron Rose of Monewden, the chairman of Asda and EG Group and a former boss of Marks & Spencer, said that "you can't interfere in the markets … the markets will control themselves".

The government is facing a backlash from food industry bosses and MPs over its plans to encourage supermarkets to impose voluntary price caps on food staples. Downing Street is understood to be drawing up proposals to advocate charging customers the lowest possible amount for some basic products, such as bread and milk.

Rose, 74, who also chaired Ocado, said: "My view on this is quite simple. I've been involved in retail for 50 years and there's been all sorts of schemes being followed by all sorts of governments over time about what they think we should be doing to control the market. We are a very efficient industry, not just in Asda, across the retail piece. We have kept the price of electronics and clothing and food in real terms down to levels that are unprecedented in terms of our ability to be efficient.

"I think we do a very, very good job for consumers, and if the government wants to start doing 'relatively clumsy things', they need to be careful about the unintended consequences of what they want to do."

The British Retail Consortium has said the measures would not make a "jot of difference" to pricing and has warned that they could impede efforts to cut inflation. The chairman of one leading British grocer described the plan as a "harebrained gimmick that would expose the government to ridicule". Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former Tory business secretary, has said price and incomes policies "don't work".

Food inflation fell for the first time in almost two years last month, to 15.4 per cent from 15.7 per cent, according to figures from the consortium and Nielsen, the data firm. Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the trade body, said the fall in food inflation had been "largely driven by lower energy and commodity costs starting to filter through to lower prices of some staples."

CBI consults lawyers about insolvency

Robert Miller

The board of the CBI has sought legal advice on a possible filing for insolvency as it prepares for a vote on its future next week.

The business lobby group has hired a City law firm to provide advice on directors' duties under company law, focused partly on directors' decision-making about continuing to operate as a going concern, according to Sky News. The legal advice on directors' duties is not being provided by either Fox Williams, which oversaw an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct at the CBI, or Clarkslegal, its usual law firm.

The lobby group is fighting for its future after the government and some of Britain's biggest companies cut ties last month in response to allegations including sexual misconduct and rape. The CBI has suspended all policy and membership activity until the extraordinary meeting next Tuesday. An adverse vote from members would leave the board with little choice but to begin a process to wind up the organisation. That would be complicated by the



Rain Newton-Smith was appointed as director-general of the CBI last month

royal charter under which it was founded in 1965.

The CBI will publish a prospectus today that will set out governance changes it has made and the vision for its future of Rain Newton-Smith, who was appointed its director-general last month. Next week's ballot will take place on a "one member, one vote" basis regardless of a member business's size or subscription fee.

The CBI has been hit financially by the cancellation of membership subscriptions by members including Aviva and the John Lewis Partnership. Others have suspended their engagement with the group, while the government and the Labour Party have said that they will not interact with the CBI while a police investigation into alleged rapes takes place.

Newton-Smith said the CBI needed "concrete actions and transparency about what we're doing, so that everyone feels empowered to share their stories and knows they will be supported. Without a mandate from you, we have no future. With a general election looming, the voice of business urgently needs to be heard."

Buck-passing of the highest order, Reit?



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Alistair Osborne*

So much for the eagerly awaited report into "allegations of wrongdoing" at Home Reit. The board's précis of Alvarez & Marsal's investigation into what really went on at the crisis-hit housing for the homeless group runs to two pages of buck-passing legalese — only justifiable if it actually is reserving "all of its rights" for potential legal action. Still, at least it puts the key culprit in the frame: the misnomer of a wealth manager, Alvarium.

It was Alvarium, backed by Qatari and Hong Kong money and starring such City luminaries as the banker Ken Costa, that invented the business and appointed the hapless Home Reit board, chaired by Lynne Fennah. It was Alvarium that provided the investment managers Jamie Beale and Gareth Jones, plus the "alternative investment fund manager", responsible for ensuring all rules are followed. And it was Alvarium Securities that floated the group in September 2020, going on to raise £740 million.

After November's demolition job from short-seller Viceroy Research, it was also Alvarium that tried to wash its hands of the scandal it had created — dumping the toxic investment manager Alvarium Home Reit Advisors so it could pull off January's US merger with the rival Tiedemann. Not that that has proved a roaring success: the shares have more than halved.

So this hardly comes as the biggest shock: the board's defence for its lousy stewardship is that it's been legged over by Alvarium. It doesn't name Beale or Jones, who respectively quit in March last year for "personal reasons" and stepped down last November for "health reasons". But it's clear who Home Reit is fingering when it says the A&M report found the investment adviser had "not brought to the attention of the board" issues that were central to the performance of the business. And not least that its so-called charity tenants were using money earmarked for doing up properties to pay the rent, so giving the false impression the group was collecting "100 per cent" of rents.

A&M also found the duo gave "inaccurate information" to the Good Economy report, used to attract ESG investors. And that they may have had "undeclared conflicts of interests", including "undisclosed potential outside business interests".

Even so, none of this should be news to any board that had been on the case. A trawl of Companies House would have been enough to expose questionable links to the managers that remain unexplained. Fennah and her fellow directors — Simon Moore, Peter Cardwell and Marlene Wood — basked in the notion they were helping to "alleviate homelessness". While they now cite a "lack of transparency" from Beale and Jones, they failed to investigate who the pair were buying the group's 2,473 properties from or who was behind its tenants.

Most weren't charities but new "community-interest companies" with links to the property vendors. In short, special purpose vehicles, set up to sign 25-year leases. The reason for that? Because properties with a tenant attached could be sold for far higher prices. One vendor alone, Christopher Downing, can be linked to the founders or directors of 13 tenants responsible for 57 per cent of Home Reit's rent roll, as The Times has disclosed. Under Home Reit's quirky business model, it paid over the odds for properties on the grounds vendors stumped up for renovations. But while Alvarium failed to monitor whether the works got done, so, too, did the board. And while both trumpeted the group's quality income stream — exempt housing benefit underwritten by the government — some tenants weren't even eligible for it.

If the board didn't know about all of this, it should have done. The upshot? Shareholders are facing hundreds of millions of pounds of losses, having seen shares in a group with an ostensible net asset value of 111p collapse to a suspended 38p. Alvarium Tiedemann declined to comment, while Beale and Jones have not responded to requests for comment. But the law firm Harcus Parker, which is bringing an investor lawsuit, says A&M's findings merely confirm that "the information disclosed by and on behalf of the company misrepresented how it was operating its business". As it puts it: "It is now up to investors to hold both the company and its adviser to account." Too right. Both the board and Alvarium should be in the dock for this fiasco.

Another Uni-leaver

Not another Unilever lifer leaving. Chief executive Alan Jope is already off in a month, having been overcome with an urgent need to retire after irking investors with his £50 billion tilt at GSK's consumer health wing. And now look: finance chief Graeme Pitkethly is also heading for the exit, announcing his decision to leave by next May just one day before the Domestos-to-Dove outfit starts its handover to the new boss Hein Schumacher, on his way from a Dutch cows co-op (report, page 36).

Pitkethly's main claim to fame in his 21 years? Addressing an empty room: the QEII Centre in Westminster (capacity 2,500). He presided over the formalities of the court meeting and EGM that ended Unilever's daft attempt to go Dutch in 2018 — a role forced on him by the cowardly ex-boss Paul Polman.

Anyway, all three top jobs could have changed by next year. By then, chairman Nils Andersen will be in his ninth year as a non-exec. A new-look Unilever looms.

$1 trillion question

Ask ChatGPT if Nvidia's worth $1 trillion and it says: "Whether Nvidia is worth $1 trillion or any specific valuation requires a comprehensive analysis of various factors, including the company's financial performance, growth prospects, competitive landscape and market conditions." Those City jobs look safe for now.

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Economic fears hit American sentiment

Consumer confidence in the United States has slipped this month amid lingering concerns about the economic outlook. However, more households plan to purchase big-ticket items such as cars over the next six months, which could support future spending.

The Conference Board, an American business research group, said its consumer confidence index had fallen to a measure of 102.3 from an upwardly revised 103.7 last month. Economists polled by Reuters had expected it to fall to 99 from the previously reported mark of 101.3.

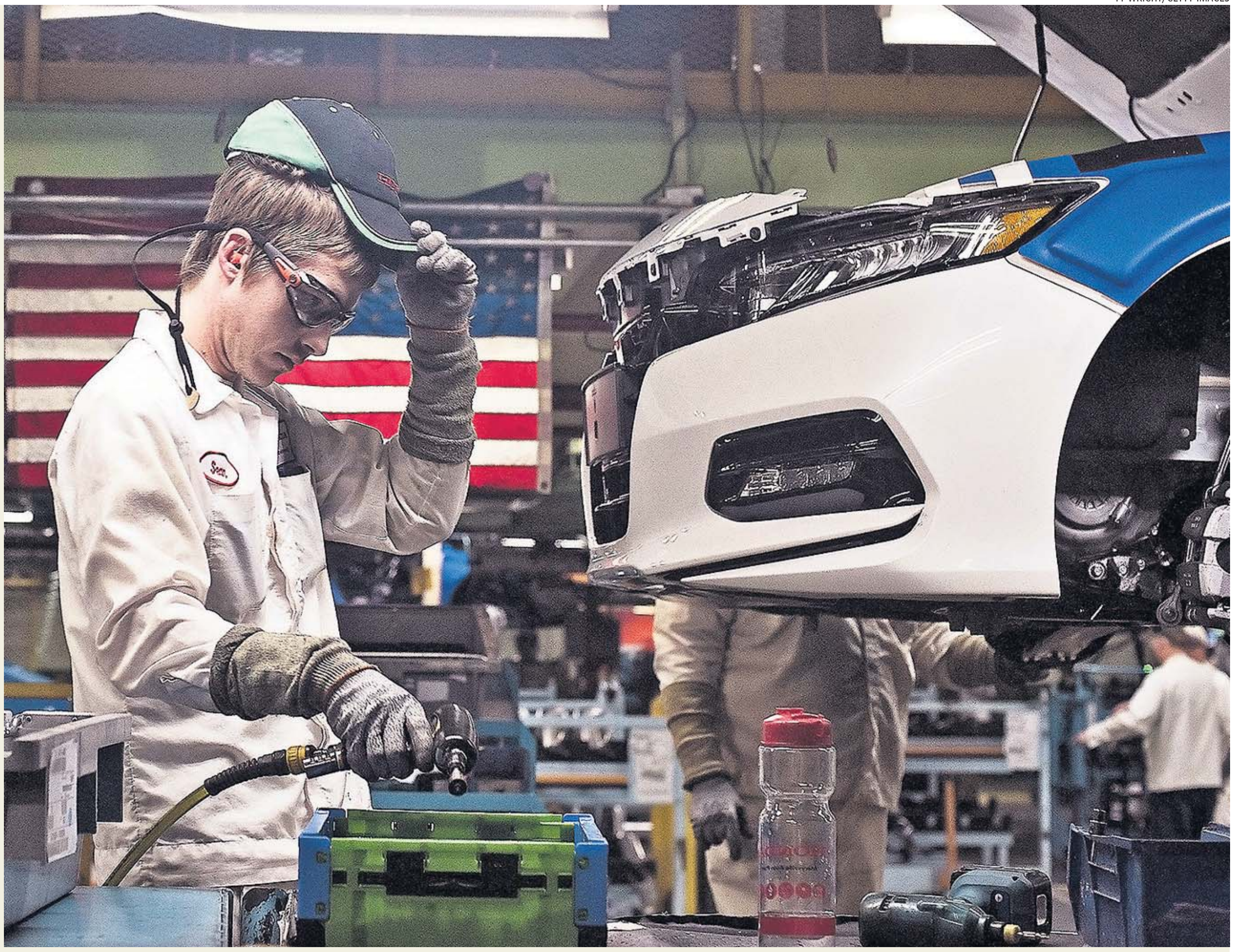
"While consumer confidence has fallen across all age and income categories over the past three months, May's decline reflects a … notable worsening in the outlook among consumers over 55," Ataman Ozyildirim, senior director for economics at the board, said, adding that "plans to purchase autos and big-ticket appliances ticked up somewhat compared to April".

Consumers' expectations for inflation over the next 12 months fell from 6.2 per cent last month to 6.1 per cent in May.

Separately, new figures showed that American single-family home prices had increased on a monthly basis in March, boosted by a shortage of properties on the market. The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller national home price index increased by 0.4 per cent after adjusting for seasonal fluctuations. It had risen by 0.3 per cent in February.

"Two months of increasing prices do not a definitive recovery make, but March's results suggest the decline in home prices that began in June 2022 may have come to an end," Craig Lazzara, managing director at S&P DJI, said. "The challenges posed by mortgage rates and the continuing possibility of economic weakness are likely to remain a headwind for housing prices for at least the next several months."

The housing market has taken the biggest hit from the Federal Reserve's monetary policy tightening. The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage has risen to the upper end of its 6.09 per cent to 6.73 per cent range this year, data from Freddie Mac, the mortgage finance agency, shows.


TY WRIGHT/GETTY IMAGES

Plans to buy big-ticket items such as cars rose, which could support consumer spending

Confidence returns to the norm

Arthi Nachiappan
Economics Correspondent

Business confidence has fallen back to its long-term average after three months of optimism that falling inflation and the avoidance of a recession would boost companies' prospects, a survey has found.

Confidence has dropped by five points on the monthly Lloyds Bank sentiment index to 28 per cent in May, but the nationwide average masks regional disparities. Businesses in southeast England have grown more optimistic about their trading outlook, while each of the other 11 regions have recorded a decline. Overall confidence has recovered after it hit a low of 10 per cent last November amid the fallout from the autumn mini-budget.

Hiring intentions have fallen from a ten-month high, but have remained robust in May, with 44 per cent of businesses planning to expand their workforces. The number planning to reduce staff headcount remains at 20 per cent.

The low level of unemployment is considered to be one of the factors keeping up consumer demand during the cost of living crisis. The jobless rate remains below 4 per cent, less than half the 8 per cent level recorded in the downturn that came after the financial crisis in 2008.

The proportion of companies expecting to raise wages by 3 per cent or more remains unchanged at 27 per cent, according to the survey of 1,200 companies between May 2 and 18.

Hann Ju Ho, senior economist for commercial banking at Lloyds, said: "As the economic environment remains challenging, business confidence has dipped slightly as firms feel cautious about the wider economy and their own trading prospects."

Inflation to be above 2% for three years, warns Goldman

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

Inflation will not return to the Bank of England's 2 per cent target for three years, according to new forecasts from Goldman Sachs that also warn interest rates could climb above 5 per cent.

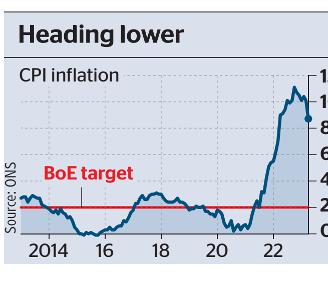
Consumer prices inflation will be "higher for longer", the investment bank believes, with high food prices, a strong labour market and robust growth forcing interest rates higher.

This month the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, which sets interest rates, said there was a strong chance that inflation would fall to 2 per cent by the middle of 2025. However, economists at Goldman said this milestone would take longer to reach, predicting that inflation was on course to hit the target at the start of 2026.

The forecast says the government will meet its target to halve inflation by the end of 2023, with consumer prices growth at 4.7 per cent in December. The government's target is met if inflation hits or is below 5.3 per cent.

Last week analysts at Barclays said that annual consumer prices inflation would drop to 3.2 per cent by the end of the year, meeting the government's target. Jeremy Hunt has said he is willing to tolerate a recession this year to apply a brake to rising prices. Goldman warned that a measure of underlying inflationary pressures, known as core inflation, would remain stubbornly high, with the bank's analysts revising up their forecast from 5.6 per cent by the end of the year to 6 per cent.

"Resilient growth, a tight labour market and persistent inflationary pressures will convince the MPC to deliver significant additional tightening," Sven Jari Stehn, Goldman's chief European economist, said. He said the MPC would raise interest rates by another 0.25 percentage points in June and August to take the base rate to 5 per cent, but added that "risks to our terminal rate forecast are skewed to the upside".



Andrew Bailey, the governor of the Bank, admitted last week that there were "very big lessons to learn" from the MPC's failure to control inflation over the past year. Ratesetters have increased borrowing costs by 4.4 percentage points since December 2021 from a low of 0.1 per cent, but price pressures have continued to defy expectations that they will fall rapidly this year.

Headline consumer prices inflation eased to 8.7 per cent in April, nonetheless still higher than the Bank's forecasts of 8.3 per cent. Food prices inflation also remained close to record highs and core inflation accelerated at the fastest pace in 31 years at 6.8 per cent last month. The surge in inflation was caused initially by the jump in global energy prices after war broke out in Ukraine, but now it is being sustained by domestic price pressures, such as the runaway costs of food and goods and strong wage growth.

Goldman said that the soaring cost of food would be slow to subside because of the lag between falling producer prices inflation translating into falling prices facing consumers. It estimates that average quarterly food prices inflation will slow from the present 13.5 per cent to about 6.7 per cent by the fourth quarter of this year. There was also a risk that the strong jobs market would keep wage growth at high levels over the rest of this year, Stehn said.

Steady company profits in contrast with 'greedflation'

Mehreen Khan

Profits generated by British companies were stable at the end of last year, casting doubt on claims that "greedflation" by businesses has been fuelling the cost of living crisis.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that profit margins in the fourth quarter, excluding those of banks, were stable at 9.8 per cent, unchanged from the previous quarter.

Services sector companies recorded an increase in profit margins of one percentage point to 15.7 per cent, while net returns for manufacturers rose to 8.4 per cent from 8.3 per cent in the third quarter.

Companies have been accused of boosting their profit margins and of stoking inflation in recent months as the prices of goods and services have climbed even as energy prices have fallen. Profits in the energy sector, which surged to record highs in mid-2022, eased on average to 12.7 per cent from 23.9 per cent in the third quarter.

The statistics office said that the dip had been caused by declining oil prices, which along with gas prices have fallen back to pre-Ukraine war levels. Wholesale gas prices declined by 40 per cent in the last three months of 2022 and have helped to drive down headline inflation throughout Europe.

The debate over so-called sellers' inflation has intensified amid surging food prices in Britain. Food costs have been rising by a record 19 per cent this year, leading the government to summon the bosses of large food retailers to demand explanations for their pricing behaviour.

Food prices have remained elevated even as energy costs and supply delays for food producers have fallen. The Bank of England has said that food price rises will be slow to subside, but will fall to about 6 per cent by the end of the year.

Michael Saunders, a former member of the Bank's ratesetting monetary policy committee, has said that there is no broad evidence of "greedflation" in the UK, in contrast with the eurozone, where the European Central Bank has said that companies are taking advantage of the high inflationary environment.

Jonathan Haskel, a member of the MPC, said last week that the overwhelming driver of inflation in Britain was the increased cost of labour as companies struggled to hire workers and offered better pay to retain their existing employees.

Krishnan Shah, an economist at the Resolution Foundation, the thnk tank, said: "While greedflation has become today's hot topic, it does not seem that firms are expanding profit margins and raising returns as of 2022. Instead, firms are reporting steady profits in the face of rising costs."

David Smith



Labour is slowly lifting the veil on its plans for economic policy

Do you remember where you were on September 17, 1994? This was when Gordon Brown, as shadow chancellor, gave a speech that contained the immortal phrase "post-neoclassical endogenous growth theory". Many were puzzled and, while some of you probably think this is all that people like me talk about when we're down at the Dog & Duck, I confess I had to look it up. The phrase was widely mocked and when Michael Heseltine discovered that bit had been penned by Brown's young adviser Ed Balls, it gave the great Tory showman one of his best conference lines: "It wasn't Brown's, it was Balls."

This is not a piece about the theory, though it has some relevance today. As interpreted later by Nick Crafts, the economic historian, it says that if you want stronger economic growth, you must create it yourself — endogenously — by investing more, rather than waiting for an outside or exogenous development to deliver it.

I mention it because we are now at a similar stage of the political cycle. Labour is well ahead in the polls and a squabbling Tory party, which these days cannot agree even on economic policy, has just lost heavily in local elections. There is less time to go before the next election than in the autumn of 1994, a maximum of 20 months, and Labour's present shadow chancellor is making big speeches, though getting less attention than Brown did.

Rachel Reeves, in Washington a week ago for a speech at the Peterson Institute, an economic policy think tank, did not revive endogenous growth theory, but she did call her speech "Securonomics", describing Labour's aim of providing greater economic security in an uncertain world. If it were up to me, I would ban words ending in "onomics". The rot set in with Freakonomics and that was nearly 20 years ago.

Reeves' speech was fine if the aim was to offer no hostages to fortune. That was also Brown's approach as the 1997 election approached, focusing on the things Labour would not do, such as raising the basic and higher rates of income tax, and some things it would do, initially sticking to Tory spending plans. Politically popular ideas, like a windfall tax on privatised utilities to pay for a "new deal" for young people, were announced. Bank of England independence was a distant ambition, not something to be announced within days of the election.

The document accompanying Reeves' speech, *A New Business Model for Britain*, contains a great map that lays bare the country's productivity divide. London, most of the southeast and the M4 corridor have above-average productivity, as do Greater Manchester and Merseyside and a chunk of Scotland that includes Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Everywhere else is below average.

Labour's "mission for growth" is a very different animal from Liz Truss's "going for growth" blast last autumn, or, for that matter, Rishi Sunak's plan, which he insists is working. Its five elements would be certainty and stability, seizing opportunities in the "industries of tomorrow", spreading wealth and opportunity to every part of the country (though it would not be called levelling-up), boosting skills and reopening the UK to global trade and "a resilient, trading economy".

Perhaps most interesting is what Labour would see as the role of the "active" state. Reeves nodded firmly towards policies adopted by the Biden administration in America, something many in British business have been urging the government to do, so far unsuccessfully. America's more active state, "pursuing a modern industrial strategy" through the Chips Act for digital technology and the Inflation Reduction Act for clean energy and industry, would strongly influence a future Labour government.



Rachel Reeves outlined her economic aims in a speech in Washington

Labour's industrial strategy, Reeves said, "means cyber among the former coal and steel communities of south Wales, robotics and AI in business hubs in Lancashire's mill towns and carbon capture and storage technologies pioneered and applied in the manufacturing landscape of Teesside". There would be a national wealth fund to invest in British industries and GB Energy, a new public energy company to invest in clean energy. A guiding principle would be the use of public investment to "underpin and unlock" further private investment.

Though government ministers have a panic attack at any suggestion they should follow America's subsidy-driven approach, or its European Union equivalent, much of this is motherhood and apple pie. On this, business has little to fear from a Labour government.

There are practical issues. What if a Labour election victory were to occur at the same time as one for Donald Trump in America? The US model Reeves admires could quickly become obsolete. And what if an incoming Labour chancellor gets the equivalent of the 2010 "there's no money left" letter because of the government's failure to fix the public finances?

But Labour will continue to slowly lift the veil on its economic policies, without doing much to frighten the horses. In this respect, Sir Keir Starmer's reported intention to ban new North Sea drilling, which has created something of a backlash, was out of character. Entirely in character is the Labour leadership's approach to Brexit, which gets some on Twitter very agitated. They think he should reverse it, rather than try to make it work. Reeves said Labour would use the opportunity of a 2025 review to improve on it. "While there's no going back into the single market or the customs union, with Labour we would make trade easier with Europe and rebuild ties with our closest neighbours," she said. That is not that controversial. Senior members of the government were saying similar things privately a few weeks ago.

Going further would be a gift for the Tories and a promise that a future Labour government would find hard to keep.

Labour's risk-free approach is not very exciting. But for an opposition hoping to become a government, that is understandable.

David Smith is Economics Editor of The Sunday Times
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Katie Prescott

Creative industries are right to fear the impact of AI on their future

There's an episode of *Mad Men*, the American television drama about the advertising industry in the 1960s, when Don Draper, the protagonist says: "Change is neither good nor bad. It simply is."

This week, WPP, the world's biggest advertising business, said it was creating a platform to automatically generate content for its customers, a change bigger than anything Draper could have imagined.

Teaming up with Nvidia, the powerhouse chip manufacturer, WPP said it would use generative artificial intelligence to create accurate, photo-realistic versions of client products and brands. You could make an image of a car, for example, and place it in any environment at the click of a mouse.

> 'Change can be greeted with a tantrum that says 'I want it the way it was,' or a dance that says, 'Look, something new'

It is one example of a creative business forging its own path by embracing this groundbreaking technology as it proliferates.

Yet while WPP is leaning into the changes wrought by AI, for others it is at the moment, quite simply, "bad". As a result, a drama around generative AI is unfolding to rival any portrayed in *Mad Men*: a battle between the rights-holders, or creative businesses, and users, or technology companies.

It might be less dire than the extinction risk that some AI bosses have warned of this week, but some fear that, without intervention, it could spell an end to business models dependent on intellectual property. It is something we need to get to grips with quickly, because for those who trade in intellectual property, such as music and publishing businesses, the technology can be a nightmare.

Rights-holders are watching as AI sucks up and uses swathes of their content to make new material. They fear what that means for their artists, writers, actors or designers; technology businesses want the content to develop their products. A lot is at stake. While the government wants to develop Britain as a tech-friendly jurisdiction, the creative industries, such as publishing and television, are also hugely significant to the country's economy, contributing £109 billion in 2021, about 5.6 per cent of the total.

Groups such as the Human Artistry Campaign are springing up to raise awareness of the issue. Some companies, such as Getty Images, have already filed lawsuits. Others, such as Universal, have made their own investments into what the record label calls "ethical AI," ensuring that its musicians get paid if their work is used by another.

It would seem only fair, but payment is, surprisingly, not guaranteed. While some technology businesses are licensing data, many are not. Furthermore, it is not always easy to prove what content has been used to generate something new.

In a report in March on how emerging technologies such as AI should be regulated, Sir Patrick Vallance, chief scientific adviser at the time, recommended that the government "announce a clear policy position on the relationship between intellectual property law and generative AI to provide confidence to innovators and investors". In response, the government said it was trying to "keep the right balance between protecting rights-holders and our thriving creative industries, while supporting AI developers to access the data they need". A consultation on the issue closes on June 21 and a code of practice should be in place by the summer. "The government intends to take a voluntary approach," it said. "However, this may be followed up with legislation if the code of practice is not adopted or agreement not reached."

Don Draper's quote about "change" ends with the following: "It can be greeted with terror or joy, a tantrum that says, 'I want it the way it was.' Or a dance that says, 'Look, something new!' "

The terror from the creative sectors is justified. We need to make sure that it ends with a dance.

Katie Prescott is Technology Business Editor of The Times

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THE TIMES

Business briefing

Stock markets across the world remain volatile following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Oil and gas prices have been spiralling, while British companies are scrambling to cope with the effects of soaring costs. With the situation changing by the hour, keeping up to date is essential. Get the latest news and market reaction by 8am, and analysis at 12.30pm, direct by email from the Business Editor, Richard Fletcher, and the Business News Editor, Martin Strydom.

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Online barrister business given £10m boost by private equity

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

An online barristers' business that offers a "reimagined" bar without physical chambers has attracted £10 million of private equity investment.

Executives at The Barrister Group — an umbrella company that includes 240 lawyers — confirmed that LDC, the private equity division of Lloyds Banking Group, had invested an "eight-figure sum".

It is a boost for a model that aims to shake up the traditional provision of barristers' services, which historically has been done through bricks-and-mortar chambers, primarily based in London's four inns of court: Gray's Inn, Inner Temple, Lincoln's Inn and Middle Temple. LDC said the deal, described as a "minority investment", would enable the business "to attract more barristers".

The Barrister Group includes three divisions, with Clerksroom being the oldest. Launched in 2001, Clerksroom allows solicitors to instruct member barristers online. Clerksroom Direct, which was launched 13 years later, accepts instructions directly from the public. This year, the business opened a third business, which focuses on the provision of employment law advice. It is understood that the combined businesses have annual revenue of about £9.3 million.

The deal was led by Oliver Schofield and Stefan Gunn, two LDC directors, who said the investment would be used to "support and advance the practices of existing members, to develop and grow specialist practice groups, to increase opportunities for those practising or seeking to practise at the Bar, to encourage and make it easier for members of the public to use a barrister and to further develop the underlying legal technologies to support these objectives".

Christina Blacklaws, 57, a former president of the Law Society of England and Wales and a non-executive director of The Barrister Group, said the deal was "an investment in legal technology, an investment in opening up the profession to a wider pool of talent and an investment in access to justice, whereby instructing solicitors and members of the public can access counsel quickly and efficiently". She added that it was "also an investment in an alternative way of working at and with the Bar".

The deal is the latest in the shifting structure of the legal profession and is rooted in legislation from 2007, which removed barriers to outside investment in legal services businesses. Those reforms generally have affected solicitors, with the creation of "alternative business structures" allowing for investors other than lawyer partners to own a share of a law practice.

The legislation also allowed traditional law firms to ditch the partnership model, convert to companies and float on the London Stock Exchange. Six practices have listed, but their results have been mixed. One — The Ince Group, which included one of the City's most renowned maritime law practices — suspended trading before going into administration this year. The remaining five listed legal services companies have suffered falls in share prices over the past 18 months. Last year Mishcon de Reya, a London law firm, abandoned its plan to list.

Harry Hodgkin, 62, The Barrister Group's chief executive and a former barrister, said the investment would "enable us to expand and develop as a business and a set, giving greater access to the profession for those less inclined towards the older chambers model".



Microsoft goes to war over merger

Microsoft has accused Britain's competition regulator of being a global "outlier" in blocking its $69 billion takeover of Activision Blizzard, the *Call of Duty* maker.

The Competition and Markets Authority blocked the deal in April, saying that it could hurt competition in the burgeoning cloud gaming market.

The decision provoked an angry reaction from Microsoft, which is asking for an appeal to be heard in July. Lawyers representing the regulator said in court filings that the software

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Nestlé counts on Manz as its next finance chief

Arthi Nachiappan
Economics Correspondent

The chief financial officers of both Nestlé and Unilever are stepping down, with the finance chief of the London Stock Exchange Group lined up to join the Swiss foods group as its new finance boss.

Nestlé said that Anna Manz would take over from François-Xavier Roger, who is leaving the world's biggest packaged food company after eight years in the finance role to "'pursue new professional challenges".

Manz, 50, who previously worked for 17 years at Diageo, the drinks group, will become a member of Nestlé's executive board as an executive vice-president "as soon as she is released from her present duties", the company said.

She will take on the finances of the business at a time when the soaring prices of energy and other commodities have put pressure on profit margins across the consumer goods sector. The company owns more than 2,000 brands, including KitKat, Häagen-Dazs and Nescafé.



Analysts at Jefferies, the broker, said they were disappointed to see Roger go because "he has built, to our eyes, an effective partnership with Mark Schneider [the chief executive]", adding that "on the other hand, eight years is a decent tenure and we see nothing particularly remarkable in this development. Roger is 61 and we would imagine he perhaps wants to pursue a more plural career — and we have a positive impression of Manz from her time at [Diageo]."



NESPRESSO/MEGA AGENCY

George Clooney and Julia Garner star in adverts for Nespresso, part of the Nestlé Group that has appointed Anna Manz, left

Unilever said Graeme Pitkethly, its chief financial officer, would leave by the end of May next year after 22 years with the company. Pitkethly, 56, took over as the finance chief in 2015, having been executive vice-president of Unilever's business in the UK and Ireland.

The company, one of the world's biggest producers of consumer goods, did not explain why Pitkethly was leaving, but said in a statement that it would proceed with a search for his successor. Unilever owns more than 400 brands ranging from Dove soap to Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Hein Schumacher, 51, will take over from Alan Jope, 59, who led the company through the pandemic, as chief executive today.

ACTIVISION


group's case should be heard in September at the earliest.

Daniel Beard KC, representing Microsoft, told the Competition Appeal Tribunal: "If this process does not move forward quickly, it jeopardises this merger being completed."

Microsoft is appealing against the ruling at the tribunal in London, arguing that the watchdog was wrong to conclude that the deal would lead to a substantial lessening of competition in Britain's cloud gaming market. Beard said that ten regulators — including the European Commission, which gave the deal the go-ahead this month — had already approved the merger.

"The CMA is the outlier here," he said. "It creates the uncertainty that risks derailing this deal and it is for that reason that speed is of the essence." He added: "It is only here that we have this uncertainty in terms of there being a decision, which we say is fundamentally wrong and purports to stop this merger worldwide in relation to a tiny part of the gaming industry."

Microsoft also has appealed against the US Federal Trade Commission's action seeking to block the deal on competition grounds.

Call of Duty is the best-known game produced by Activision Blizzard, the target of Microsoft's merger

Former Pru boss will lead board at Hiscox

Ben Martin Banking Editor

A City veteran who had a tumultuous time running Prudential, the FTSE 100 insurance company, is to lead the board of Hiscox.

Jonathan Bloomer, 69, will take up his post as chairman of the Lloyd's of London insurer in July. He will succeed Rob Childs, 71, whose impending retirement after more than a decade as the company's chairman was announced in March.

Bloomer's appointment at Hiscox, which is also a member of the FTSE 100 index of the biggest London-listed companies, marks his return to the top ranks of corporate Britain.

A former partner at Arthur Andersen, the accounting firm that collapsed after the Enron scandal, Bloomer then joined the Pru as its finance chief in 1995 before taking the top job at the insurer in 2000. However, his tenure in charge was marred by setbacks. He attracted criticism in 2001 when the Pru unsuccessfully tried to buy American General and came under pressure in 2003 when the group cut its dividend by 40 per cent, its first reduction since 1914. Bloomer was removed by the board in 2005 after failing to offload the Pru's stake in Egg, the internet banking venture, and after blindsiding shareholders with a £1 billion rights issue.

Since leaving the Pru, Bloomer has taken a series of board roles. He is chairman of the international business of Morgan Stanley, the Wall Street powerhouse, and also leads the boards of DWF, the London-listed law firm, and SDL, a property auctioneer.

Hiscox is behind one of the oldest syndicates at Lloyd's, the world's biggest insurance market. Although it is based in Bermuda, it is one of the best-known insurers in Britain and has a stock market value of about £4.1 billion.

It attracted scrutiny during the pandemic when it was one of several insurers to argue that clients had not been covered by their business interruption insurance policies when they were hit by lockdown rules to control the spread of Covid. This caused a furore and the dispute went to the Supreme Court, which ruled largely in favour of policyholders.

The arrival of Bloomer represents further change at the top of Hiscox. Last year Aki Hussain, 50, who was the insurer's finance chief, succeeded Bronek Masojada as chief executive. Masojada, 61, had run the company for 21 years.

Childs was also a veteran of the business, having joined Hiscox in 1986 and rising through the ranks at the group. He joined the board in 2006 and became its chairman in February 2013.

Hiscox shares rose 12p, or 1 per cent, to £11.82 last night.

Musk wins friends in China

Jon Rees

China called for a "stable and constructive" relationship with the United States as Elon Musk arrived in the country to visit his Tesla electric car factory in Shanghai for the first time in three years.

When he arrived in Beijing, the American billionaire met Qin Gang, China's foreign minister, who told Musk that the country was committed to improving the business environment for investors, including Tesla. Musk is also the boss of Twitter, the social media platform, and SpaceX, the aerospace and space transport company.

China's foreign ministry quoted Musk as saying he was willing to expand his business in China and that he opposed a decoupling of the US and China economies. It added that Musk had described the two economies as "conjoined twins".

Tesla did not respond to China's comments, nor did Musk comment via Twitter, which is banned in China but is accessible to some users via virtual private networks.

Musk, 51, is expected to meet other senior officials on his visit, including Zeng Yuqun, chairman of CATL, the Chinese battery group that is a key Tesla supplier.

Tesla's car factory in Shanghai was opened in 2019 and has helped to accelerate the growth in China's electric car sales.

Inflation takes a big bite out of Greencore's profits

Robert Lea

The price of a shop-bought lunch may be going up, but Greencore, one of the leading providers of on-the-go meals, has swung into the red after failing to offset inflation.

The Dublin-based, London-listed provider of sandwiches, boxed salads and other convenience foods reported a £6.2 million loss in the first six months of its financial year to the end of March. In the same period the previous year, it made a profit of £1 million.

The company said volumes were up by 5 per cent in the period and, after passing on the costs of rising food prices, energy costs, wages and financing, its revenues had jumped year-on-year by 20 per cent to £925 million.

In a statement, it said that "inflation significantly increased year-on-year … and the majority was recovered or mitigated". Not all was offset and profit margins fell from 2.2 per cent 1.3 per cent, but investors were cheered by news that the situation was improving as the year goes on and that the company was fitter to take on its challenges after laying off 250 of its 13,000 employees. As a result, shares in Greencore rose by 3¼p, or 4.3 per cent, to 79p yesterday.

The group said it had "recovered or mitigated a significant component of the input cost and other inflation incurred during the first half through explicit recovery mechanisms, constructive dialogue with customers and operational and cost efficiencies".

Dalton Philips, 55, the former boss of the Morrisons supermarket chain who has been chief executive of Greencore since last autumn, said: "While much of the top-line momentum has been driven by recovery of inflation, it is encouraging to have achieved good manufactured volume growth, which speaks to the enduring demand for the categories in which we operate."

Summary of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022*

PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY

The Port of London Authority's summary results for the year ended 31 December 2022 were as follows.

- Port trade increased with a resulting rise in **revenue** to £78.2 million (2021: £71.4 million)
- **Surplus** from operations was £12.2 million (2021: £8.7 million)
- **Investments** of £5 million cash in assets (2021: £13.2 million)
- **Net cash** position decreased by £2.0 million (2021 decrease: £3.8 million)

* The auditors' report on the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 was unqualified.

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This notice is placed in line with the requirements of Section 8(3) of the Port of London Act 1968; a full copy of the PLA Annual Report & Accounts for 2022 can be found on the PLA website.



Sky's the limit

In the first of our series of features on net zero leaders, in association with SSE, we talk to the CEO of H2GO Power, which is developing hydrogen storage tech for a safe, reliable power supply

Is hydrogen the perfect fuel for the net zero age? A kilo of hydrogen gas contains three times as much energy as a kilo of petrol, and when burned the only byproduct is water – no carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates or any pollutants at all.

"Hydrogen is a very elegant energy storage solution – if you produce it using renewable energy, it has no carbon in it to start with, so when you burn it there are no carbon emissions at all. That's unique," says Enass Abo-Hamed, co-founder and CEO of hi-tech start-up H2GO Power, which was born from her PhD research into hydrogen storage.

Despite its enormous potential as a clean fuel, hydrogen take-up has been limited, at least partly because, unlike petrol or diesel, you can't just pour hydrogen into a tank. It has to be stored in very expensive cylinders at potentially dangerous pressures of up to 700 bar (the pressure in a domestic gas cylinder by comparison is only around 10 bar).

Mixed with air it is also highly explosive. "Hydrogen has great potential, but it's a difficult molecule," Abo-Hamed admits. "That's what makes it so interesting to research."

Founded in 2014, H2GO has developed a hi-tech hydrogen "reactor" that uses nano-materials to safely store and release hydrogen at much lower pressures, along with AI software to manage the process as efficiently as possible.

The company has just signed a deal with boiler manufacturer Baxi that will see its technology used to decarbonise a range of industrial heating processes, with trials due to start at a gas research facility in the northeast of England shortly.

Hydrogen-based innovations like these should ultimately help decarbonise the supply chain of raw materials like steel and concrete, which are vital but also carbon-intensive because producing them uses so much energy.

The government agrees that hydrogen is of growing importance to net zero, and has recently doubled its plans for low carbon hydrogen production from 5GW by 2030 to 10GW. It estimates that up to 35 per cent of the UK's energy consumption could be hydrogen by 2050.

Much of this additional hydrogen will provide essential low-carbon reserve energy capacity, using excess renewable electricity (such as that generated by wind farms when the wind is blowing but demand for power is low) to produce hydrogen. This "green" hydrogen is very low carbon and can be burned to generate power on calm days or when demand is high – helping to solve another knotty net zero problem: the unpredictability of renewables that are reliant on the weather.

SSE, a leader in sustainable energy, is also exploring opportunities in hydrogen, including an on-site "co-located" facility at its Gordonbush wind farm in the Scottish Highlands, and the Aldbrough Hydrogen Pathfinder, a production plant on the East Yorkshire coast.



35%
of the UK's energy could come from hydrogen by 2050

Only way is up: top, H2GO Power has been 'air-testing' hydrogen-powered drones; and above, CEO Enass Abo-Hamed

This would use surplus power from renewable providers to produce green hydrogen, store it in caverns underground and use it to generate ultra-low carbon electricity for the grid when required.

H2GO is developing a £4.3 million smart hydrogen storage project in the Orkneys. "Sometimes you can have a week of wind every day, followed by a week of no wind. But you still need electricity, so what do you do? You store the wind in the form of hydrogen," says Abo-Hamed. By eliminating the need for back-up generators, the scheme could also save about 7,500 gallons of diesel a year.

Ironically, for a colourless gas, the other issue that has dogged hydrogen take-up is the question of its "hue". There are no fewer than seven ways of making hydrogen – each of which has been assigned a colour in the so-called "hydrogen rainbow" – and they all have different carbon footprints. Green hydrogen is produced using renewable energy and is one of the most climate friendly of all fuels. But black hydrogen, produced by burning coal, is one of the least. Blue hydrogen, which is made from natural gas but with the carbon emissions captured and stored, may also have a role to play in decarbonising energy, as a stopgap while sufficient green hydrogen capacity is built.

So hydrogen's moment in the sun – or should that be wind? – may be just around the corner. It's been a long time coming, says Abo-Hamed.

"When I did my PhD at Cambridge, I was the only person in the whole chemistry department who was studying hydrogen storage. And when we started the company, we were way ahead of the market – it was before the Paris Agreement, and the climate conversation we were having was very different. People just didn't see the need to change."

Despite the time it's taken, she thinks the struggle was worth it – the energy market is finally catching up with their ideas.

"It did feel difficult," she says, "but our product had a very long development cycle, so starting the business before the market was ready was actually the right thing to do. It has put us in a strong position today."

SSE CHARTS PATH TO GREEN HYDROGEN FUTURE

SSE is developing a first-of-a-kind project in the Humber that would unite hydrogen production, storage and power generation in one location by the middle of this decade. The Aldbrough Hydrogen Pathfinder project will support the evidence base for wider deployment of flexible hydrogen power in the UK's net zero journey.

Located at the existing Aldbrough Gas Storage site on the East Yorkshire coast, the project is designed to demonstrate the interactions between hydrogen electrolysis, hydrogen cavern storage and 100 per cent hydrogen dispatchable power [meaning it can adjust output according to demand].

The concept would see green power sourced from the grid through Renewable Power Purchase Agreements, in compliance with the Low Carbon Hydrogen Standard. Hydrogen would then be produced via a 35MW electrolyser before being stored in a converted salt cavern and then used in a 100 per cent hydrogen-fired turbine, exporting flexible green power back to the grid at times of system need. In future, hydrogen storage will also benefit buyers in other sectors, for example in industry, heat or transport.

The Aldbrough Hydrogen Pathfinder aims to produce hydrogen and start filling the cavern by 2025, subject to planning consents and reaching a financial investment decision next year.

Find out more at sse.com

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West End leaves City trailing in office space race

JOHNNY GREIG/GETTY IMAGES



The City of London, traditionally the heart of the capital's financial services industry, has been eclipsed by the West End

Emma Powell

The construction of new offices in London's West End is consistently outpacing the City for the first time as demand from financial services trails that of other sectors.

The volume of space being developed in the Square Mile business district is close to its lowest level in at least eight years, according to research by Deloitte, in contrast with the steady recovery in activity in the West End since the pandemic.

There were 200,000 sq ft of new offices being built and 300,000 sq ft being refurbished in the City during the six months to March, a biannual survey conducted by the accountancy group revealed. That is less than half the space being constructed to the west in the capital, which amounted to 1.3 million sq ft.

10.7%

Rise in average prime rents in the West End of London

Source: Savills

"I think this is the first time that we've seen consistently greater activity in the West End market compared with the core city market," Tony McCurley, a real estate adviser at Deloitte, said.

Supply chain inflation, a higher cost of financing, labour shortages and a decline in valuations throughout the office market have raised the bar for schemes to be viable.

The difference in activity levels came down to the simple balance of supply and demand, McCurley said, which had pushed up rents in the West End while those in the City remained more subdued.

The take-up of new space in the West End and the City since the start of this year remains below the ten-year average, according to Savills, the property services group, but there are signs of a faster recovery in the West End. Average prime rents rose by an annual 10.7 per cent to almost £135 per sq ft in the West End during the first quarter, compared with a 2.7 per cent decline in the City to just under £82 per sq ft, Savills said. Vacancy rates stood at 6.7 per cent and 9.8 per cent, respectively, with the latter being the highest post-pandemic figure.

Toby Courtauld, 55, chief executive of Great Portland Estates, the London-focused property company, said that a more diverse pool of potential occupiers and smaller average building sizes, which reduce the risks around re-letting space, had made the West End a more attractive area in which to develop space. "You have got a much broader occupier base in the West End than you have in the City," he said.

McCurley said: "In recent years, a lot of the growth in occupational demand has come from the technology sector, followed by professional services." Such occupiers traditionally have looked outside the Square Mile for office premises. Meanwhile, demand from the financial services industry has been more disappointing.

"What has been missing is the dominance of the financial services sector in terms of occupational demand, which has been quite weak," he said. "There's been a lot of contraction in financial services, it's been an area that is under the spotlight from a cost perspective and that's probably why." However, there were signs that demand from financial services was starting to return as employers tried to tempt workers to return to the office and hoped to attract new talent by occupying better-quality spaces, he added.

Law firms accounted for about 80 per cent of the space let in the City during the six months to March. In November, Clifford Chance, the "magic circle" law firm, agreed to lease just over 310,000 sq ft of space to move its headquarters into the City.



THE TIMES

Enterprise Network

In crisis
High street pharmacies could play a key role in clearing the NHS backlog. But they need investment if they are to survive and thrive, says Santosh Sahu,

founder of
Charac

Fitting in
It can be tough to integrate into an organisation with close-knit teams. Ann Francke, above, from the Chartered Institute of Management, gives her top tips to make allies

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Emma Powell Tempus

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



Riding the wave of the AI revolution

NVIDIA

Market cap	First-quarter revenue
$1.02trn	$7.2bn

Dangling just one number put Nvidia Corporation on course to make history. Guiding towards second-quarter sales of $11 billion — more than 50 per cent higher than the consensus forecast — has made the chipmaker the first in its class to secure a valuation of more than $1 trillion.

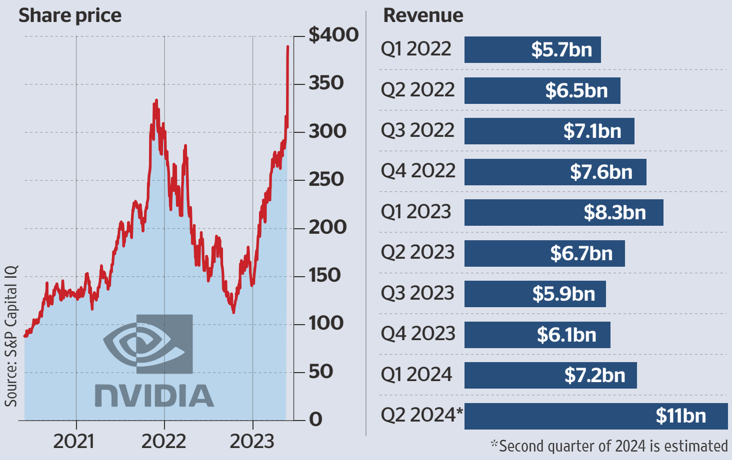
That also has pushed the Santa Clara-based group into the echelons of the technological elite that includes the well-established likes of Apple, Meta Platforms and Alphabet, the Google owner, in vaulting the trillion-dollar valuation barrier.

Nvidia is priced for racier growth than any of the aforementioned names. A rise in the share price of 33 per cent in the past week to a fresh record high equates to a forward earnings multiple of 43, some way higher than the sub-30 price/earnings ratios attached to the Faang club (the acronym that stood for Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google, before corporate rebrands reduced the effect). Nvidia's higher price tag is well justified.

The chipmaker's spectacular rise has been driven by a race among cloud computing providers and technology groups to upgrade their computing capabilities needed to power artificial intelligence models. H100, its most powerful chip, has become instrumental in building generative AI models, used to produce human-like data based on patterns learnt from existing text, images and audio.

Providing the chips used to power Open AI's ChatGPT tool, generative AI's breakout star, has put Nvidia in pole position to be one of the burgeoning technology's biggest and earliest winners. Generative AI has already driven "exponential" growth in computing requirements, according to Jensen Huang, the Taiwanese-American founder and chief executive of Nvidia. Its data centre division, which increased sales by 14 per cent year-over-year during the first quarter, has become the catalyst. In the first three months of its fiscal year, the business accounted for 60 per cent of group revenue, up from 36 per cent only two years ago.

Joining the elite



ADVICE Buy
WHY The race to adopt AI technology means potentially rapid earnings growth

The momentum in its data centre division is set to turbocharge group sales for the present quarter, which ends in July, to about $11 billion, far higher than the $7.1 billion analysts had pencilled in. Hitting that guidance would represent annual growth of about 80 per cent and almost double the previous quarter.

AT CENTRE OF POWER STRUGGLE

Investors may wonder whether huge sales growth is a one-off. The size of demand from cloud computing providers, consumer internet companies and enterprise customers that range from automotive to financial services since the start of this year has pushed the sales visibility for its data centre division out "a few quarters", according to Colette Kress, Nvidia's finance chief. That is expected to result in second-half sales ahead of the first six months of this year.

The appeal of adopting AI technology for corporates is easy to see — it has the potential to generate huge productivity gains and to open new lines of business. Possible applications range from drug development within the healthcare industry, increasing the velocity of trading among financial services companies and content creation for global advertisers. On Monday WPP, the advertising agency, said it would be developing a platform alongside Nvidia that would create automated digital adverts.

ChatGPT is an alluring template for the transformative potential of AI for other consumer-facing industries. Its adoption rate is more than 100 times faster than the average of other technology groups, according to analysis by Morgan Stanley. The platform reached a million users in a mere five days — compare that with two and a half months for Instagram, or three and a half years for Netflix.

Against such a backdrop, the firmness of the supply chain is an area that investors will want to track. Huang has said the group has procured a "substantial amount" of supply for the second half of the year. But the AI boom comes amid a power struggle over chips between Washington and Beijing. The Biden administration has introduced US export controls to slow Chinese semiconductor manufacturing. In August, the American chip company said the new rules would cost it $400 million in quarterly sales to China. A widening in the scope of restrictions could have more severe consequences.

The market is not without competition, either, which is coming "from every direction", according to Huang. That includes "really well-funded" start-ups, existing semiconductor companies and cloud computing providers pursuing internal projects. That might pose concerns for how well the price of Nvidia's chips can hold up.

EARLY TO THE PARTY

The group benefits from an early mover advantage. A savvy shift in the focus of its graphics processing units from video games to AI in 2016 meant that when ChatGPT was launched last year, the group was already building chips needed to train large language models at scale, Huang noted. The breakout of generative AI merely triggered "a killer app" for a computing platform that had been in preparation for some time.

Nvidia can lay claim to a market share of more than 80 per cent of the AI graphics processing market, according to HSBC, which has given it pricing power. The scale of first-quarter demand prompted the bank to raise its average sales price assumptions for the newer Hopper chip architecture this year from $20,500 to $30,000, before prices come down next year to $25,000 — still higher than the $21,625 forecast.

As its Hopper architecture becomes a greater part of the overall sales mix, the average price of its chips also should increase this year and next, the bank reckons. The prices of Nvidia's AI chips are $10,000 for the A100 and $20,000 for the H100, more than ten to twenty times higher than the $1,000 price of its gaming processing unit.

Scale and a pricing advantage bring with them margin progression. Gross margins are expected to increase to 68.6 per cent during the second quarter, up from 64.6 per cent in the previous three months. That should feed through to the bottom line, with operating expenses expected to rise by only 8 per cent to $2.71 billion. Analysts have forecast a pre-tax profit of $4.3 billion for the present quarter, up from $2 billion in the past three months.

As a bet on the rapid adoption of AI, Nvidia has a scarcity value. It would seem foolish to bet against its astonishing rise continuing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BHP technology deal

Machine learning and artificial intelligence will hold the key for improving the recovery of copper from BHP's vast Escondida mine in Chile, the miner said as it unveiled a partnership with Microsoft, the technology group. Using real-time data from plants that process ore in combination with AI-based recommendations from Microsoft's Azure platform, plant operators will have the ability to adjust variables that affect ore processing and grade recovery, BHP said. Its shares closed down 38p, or 1.7 per cent, at £22.49.

Fusion energy hopes

A British leader in fusion energy has signed up with General Atomics, of the United States, to work on what some claim will be limitless clean power. Tokamak Energy, which was spun out from the Atomic Energy Authority and is based in Abingdon, near Oxford, wants to commercialise the use of electromagnets to super-heat hydrogen atoms, replicating what happens in the Sun. Tokamak said it had the technology and General Atomics could produce the magnets.

Ghosn trio acquitted

A Turkish court acquitted three people over the escape of Carlos Ghosn, the former Nissan boss, via Istanbul to Lebanon after fleeing Japan, a lawyer for one of the defendants said. A jet company executive and two pilots, who had been detained for several months, were sentenced to four years and two months in jail in 2021 on charges of migrant smuggling. Mehmet Fatih Danaci, a lawyer for the jet executive, said an appeals court had ordered a retrial of the case.

Hospitality gloom

Average bills at pubs, bars and restaurants have surged by 81 per cent over the past year as companies make further pleas to the government for support. Figures collected by CGA by NielsenIQ on behalf of the British Institute of Innkeeping, UKHospitality, the British Beer and Pub Association and Hospitality Ulster revealed that only 29 per cent of hospitality businesses said they felt optimistic about the coming 12 months.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	33042.78 (-50.56)
Nasdaq Composite	13017.43 (+41.74)
S&P 500	4205.52 (+0.07)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	31328.16 (+94.62)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18595.78 (+44.67)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	756.67 (-7.43)
Sydney	
AO	7387.30 (-7.80)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15908.91 (-43.82)
Singapore	
Straits	3187.56 (-7.66)
Brussels	
BEL20	3582.90 (-58.47)
Paris	
CAC-40	7209.75 (-94.06)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11282.45 (-151.79)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4291.58 (-28.43)
London	
FTSE 100	7522.07 (-105.13)
FTSE 250	18807.37 (+13.28)
FTSE 350	4145.81 (-49.33)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3598.41 (-41.63)
FTSE All-Shares	4104.75 (-47.79)
FTSE Non Financials	4963.05 (-69.44)
techMARK 100	6761.34 (-29.77)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2389 (+0.0041)
Euro	1.1559 (+0.0027)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	79.99 (-0.09)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	130.43 Apr (2015 = 100)
RPI	372.80 Apr (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 23	95.560	96.050	94.740	95.950	14164	41897
	SEP 23	95.720	96.130	94.910	95.970	217642	490381
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 23	96.405	96.425	96.405	96.420	123959	543183
	Sep 23	96.135	96.185	96.135	96.180	155831	604196
	Dec 23	96.160	96.245	96.160	96.235	134257	408661
	Mar 24	96.310	96.435	96.310	96.420	107229	381730
	Jun 24	96.525	96.675	96.525	96.655	109328	317021
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
FTSE100	Jun 23	7636.0	7646.0	7519.5	7526.5	95365	606750
	Sep 23	7645.0	7645.0	7538.5	7537.5	81	3146
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 23				5759.5		
	Sep 23				5802.0		

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Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	73.56	-2.83
BFOE(Jul)	73.54	-3.43
BFOE(Aug)	73.76	-3.27
WTI(Jul)	69.46	-3.21
WTI(Aug)	69.60	-3.16

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	853.00	856.00
Gasoil EEC	676.25	677.25
3.5 Fuel Oil	395.00	395.25
Naphtha	576.00	590.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	668.75-668.25	Sep	665.75-665.25
Jul	663.25-663.00	Oct	668.50-668.00
Aug	663.00-662.50		Volume: 607734

Brent (9.00pm)

Jul	73.70-73.67	Oct	73.39-73.35
Aug	73.83-73.81	Nov	73.10-73.06
Sep	73.68-73.66		Volume: 2086153

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul	2350-2349	Sep	2165-2157
Sep	2322-2301	Dec	2102-2141
Dec	2281-2271	Mar	2051-2090
Mar	2218-2210		
May	2193-2188		
Jul	2176-2140		Volume: 69973

RobustaCoffee

Jul	2566-2564	Mar	2414-2402
Sep	2522-2518	May	2395-2370
Nov	2464-2450		
Jan	2451-2350		Volume: 16142

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	666.80-664.60
		May	648.30-647.10
Aug	705.90-704.90	Aug	633.30-627.50
Oct	695.40-694.60	Oct	610.10-597.70
Dec	681.70-679.70		Volume: 66438

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jul	172.00	Nov	185.50	Jan	unq
Mar	unq	May	195.75	Volume: 795	

HOLLYWOOD BOWL



Bowling set to remain 'affordable'

Half-year profit may have fallen at Hollywood Bowl Group, but its revenues hit a record high and the company remained confident that sales would be resilient as people looked for affordable entertainment (Arthi Nachiappan writes).

The tenpin bowling chain said its pre-tax profit had slipped to £26.7 million for the six months to March 31 from £33.4 million in the same period last year. Revenues hit £110.2 million over the half-year period, up by 9.7 per cent.

The company, based in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, said profits would have risen by 7.7 per cent to £24.8 million if the boost from last year's temporary VAT reduction was stripped out of the balance sheet. Like-for-like sales rose by 3.5 per cent.

Hollywood Bowl, which has 73 bowling alleys and a handful of mini-golf centres in Britain and Canada, said it was "confident in resilient demand as customers look for value-for-money leisure experiences." Stephen Burns, 47, chief executive, said the price of a game of bowling had risen by only 3.9 per cent since 2019, despite double-digit inflation in the UK. He said the group would keep further price increases, where necessary, to between 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent over the next year.

"We only need to increase prices by 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent to mitigate all of the cost pressures that are coming our way," he said, adding that it would not be a "huge hit" for customers.

Shares in Hollywood Bowl closed up 3p, or 1.2 per cent, at 263p.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
RHI Magnesita Private equity firm interested in buying stake	23.6%
Hunting Receives largest order ever, lifts profit forecasts	13.4%
Bytes Technology Hype around Nvidia lifts technology sector	6.8%
Dechra Pharmaceuticals "Defensive" sectors popular	6.8%
Pets at Home UK retail shares enjoy day in sun	5.2%
Shell Oil prices fall sharply amid demand, recession worries	-3.0%
Rolls-Royce Indian government files criminal complaint	-3.1%
Ocado Flirting with relegation from the FTSE 100	-3.7%
Dr Martens RBC analysts predict tough year ahead	-5.1%
Asos Market unconvinced about prospects	-12.3%

Bootmaker stumbles amid fears over profits forecast



***Tom Howard* Market report**

The red light may have been flashing a few weeks ago, but a reminder that Dr Martens' full-year results might come with a nasty surprise gave investors the cue to put the boot in once again. Last month the maker of the famous footwear warned that profits for its financial year just gone, which ended in March, would be about £245 million, £10 million less than it had hoped for previously. Piral Dadhania, a premium brands analyst at RBC, expects the £245 million figure to be on the money, but he thinks bosses also have been "too optimistic" with their outlook for this present year.

In that update a few weeks ago, Kenny Wilson, Dr Martens' chief executive, reiterated his belief that the company would grow sales by a percentage in the mid-to-high single digits over the next 12 months. Wilson's expectations would have revenue comfortably topping £1 billion this year, but Dadhania and his team now reckon it will end up closer to £960 million.

The analysts see a number of "nearer-term challenges", particularly in the United States, which accounts for more than a third of Dr Martens' sales and where high inflation, climbing interest rates and a slowing economy are reducing consumers' appetite to buy things such as a new pair of Docs.

The market took fright at Dadhania's comment that Wilson might look to revise his forecasts, potentially as soon as tomorrow when last year's numbers are announced. Dr Martens' shares closed down 8¼p, or 5.1 per cent, at 153p. The shares were launched on the London Stock Exchange in early 2021 at 370p apiece.

More broadly, investors were treading cautiously, despite President Biden striking a deal over the weekend to raise the $31.4 trillion borrowing limit of the US, the world's largest economy, for two years and thus avert a default. The proposal still needs to be signed off by Congress. In theory, if legislation is not enacted before June 5, the federal government will run out of money and will be unable to pay all its bills. Although seen as unlikely, it created uneasiness in the markets. The FTSE 100 fell 105.13 points, or 1.4 per cent, to a two-month low of 7,522.07.

Unilever led London's top index retreat after the consumer goods group behind brands such as Vaseline and Hellmann's said its finance chief was stepping down. The shares dropped 124p, or 3 per cent, to £40.45.

Rolls-Royce, the aircraft engine maker, descended 4¾p, or 3.1 per cent, to 144½p after reports that the Indian government had filed a criminal complaint against it related to historic fighter jet sales. **Shell** dipped 70½p, or 3.2 per cent, to £22.82 as the price of a barrel of Brent crude fell by more than 3 per cent to $74.69.

Companies on the FTSE 250, London's second tier, are less bothered about overseas drama, which allowed the index to inch up 13.28 points, 0.1 per cent, to 18,807.37.

RHI Magnesita, the world's leading provider of heat-resistant bricks and wall linings used in furnaces, jumped 484p, or 23.6 per cent, to £25.34 after Rhône Capital, a New York-based private equity firm, offered to pay £28.50-a-share for a 20 per cent stake in the business. The bid is 39 per cent above where the shares were trading last week and values the business at about £1.4 billion. RHI is "considering its response to the partial offer".

Several big retail stocks perked up: **Pets at Home** rose 18½p, or 5.2 per cent, to 376½p; **Frasers Group**, formerly known as Sports Direct, improved 18p, or 2.7 per cent, to 690p; and **B&M**, the discounter, added 10p, or 2.1 per cent, to 472p.

Wall Street report

Fears that Republicans in Congress who oppose a deal to raise America's $31.4 trillion debt ceiling may yet scupper President Biden's plan kept the Dow Jones industrial average in the red, closing down by 50.56 points, or 0.2 per cent, at 33,042.78.

Contract fuels rise at Hunting

Hunting enjoyed its best session in more than a year after the oil services group confirmed that, after winning a record contract, this year's profits would be bigger than expected.

The FTSE 250 company's shares have struggled recently amid a slowdown in orders from the American shale oil industry, one of its favoured hunting grounds.

However, they leapt after it secured a $91 million order from Vedanta Resources to design and build drill pipes for 100 wells at fields in Rajasthan, India. It is the largest single order Hunting has received in its 149 years of doing business, exceeding the $86 million contract it won from CNOOC, the Chinese state-owned group, last summer. It is likely to be three years before the company has finished all the work required.

Hunting expects to be paid for some of the job this year, meaning that its underlying profits in 2023 are now expected to be between $92 million and $94 million. Previously, the company had been forecasting an outcome of $88 million, at best.

Following the news, Hunting's shares rose 27p, or 13.4 per cent, to 228½p.

● Brent crude, the benchmark international oil price, fell sharply amid fears of a slowdown in growth in the American economy. Last night it was down by 5 per cent, or $3.83, a barrel at $73.22.



Hunting secured a $91 million deal with Vendanta Resources

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jul	172.00	Nov	185.50	Jan	unq
Mar	unq	May	195.75	Volume: 795	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8120.0-8122.0	8141.0-8142.0	8210.0-8220.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2076.0-2078.0	2071.0-2073.0	2103.0-2108.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2323.0-2323.5	2340.0-2342.0	2375.0-2380.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2229.5-2230.0	2224.0-2225.0	2390.0-2395.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
21215.0-21235.0	21490.0-21500.0	22745.0-22795.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
25700.0-25705.0	25300.0-25350.0	24540.0-24590.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Owing to a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Monday.

Bullion: Open $1941.54

Close $1962.20-1962.47 High $1963.36

Low $1932.12

AM $1953.50 **PM** $1947.90

Platinum $1092.00 (£880.30)

Silver $23.24 (£18.73)

Palladium $1721.11 (£1387.44)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	4.89	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.480; 3 mth 4.847. Sell: 1 mth 4.140; 3 mth 4.480

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	4.2013	0.000	4.7517	4.7447	0.00
Eurodollar Deps	5.18-5.61	0.00-0.00	5.04-5.04	4.67-4.67	3.82-3.82

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.5859-8.6319	8.6136-8.6149	134ds	399ds
Euro	1.1590-1.1530	1.1566-1.1566	11pr	32pr
Montreal	1.6768-1.6917	1.6862-1.6864	3ds	12ds
New York	1.2328-1.2444	1.2404-1.2405	9pr	20pr
Oslo	13.704-13.913	13.886-13.889	127ds	382ds
Stockholm	13.362-13.510	13.484-13.488	242ds	663ds
Tokyo	173.00-174.27	173.44-173.47	75ds	223ds
Zurich	1.1162-1.1236	1.1226-1.1228	34ds	98ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5350-1.5352
Canada	1.3594-1.3595
Denmark	6.9445-6.9450
Euro	0.9322-0.9325
Hong Kong	7.8338-7.8340
Japan	139.83-139.84
Malaysia	4.5990-4.6040
Norway	11.195-11.198
Singapore	1.3512-1.3514
Sweden	10.869-10.874
Switzerland	0.9047-0.9051

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	296.22-296.23
Australia dollar	1.9044-1.9046
Bahrain dinar	0.4642-0.4712
Brazil real	6.2657-6.2814
Euro	1.1563-1.1569
Hong Kong dollar	9.7164-9.7180
India rupee	102.59-102.59
Indonesia rupiah	18582-18583
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3803-0.3826
Malaysia ringgit	5.7097-5.7159
New Zealand dollar	2.0524-2.0529
Singapore dollar	1.6760-1.6763
S Africa rand	24.448-24.459
U A E dirham	4.5571-4.5596

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.904	+0.02
Canada $	1.689	+0.01
Denmark Kr	8.616	+0.02
Euro €	1.157	
Hong Kong $	9.721	+0.05
Hungary	428.090	-0.67
Indonesia	18596.426	+103.99
Israel Shk	4.601	-0.01
Japan Yen	173.498	+0.20
New Zealand $	2.052	+0.01
Norway Kr	13.878	+0.12
Poland	5.249	+0.03
Russia	100.769	+1.33
S Africa Rd	24.459	+0.20
Sweden Kr	13.487	+0.10
Switzerland Fr	1.122	
Turkey Lira	25.313	+0.49
USA $	1.241	+0.01

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Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	+0.27	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	146.68	...	-0.46	4.57
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	316.32	...	+0.23	4.51
UK Gwth A ‡@	7882.71	...	-6.81	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	...

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Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2141.53	...	+2.56	3.35
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	1.29
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	1.30
European Growth R Acc ‡@	398.76	...	+2.61	1.87
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-0.07	1.21
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	334.45	...	+1.23	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	150.81	...	+0.69	4.33
Global Income R Inc ‡@	94.81	...	+0.44	4.54
Global Select R Acc ‡@	151.96	...	+1.85	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	61.63	...	+0.10	...
Income R Acc ‡@	508.06	...	+2.57	3.77
Income R Inc ‡@	218.11	...	+1.10	3.89
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	62.42	...	...	4.84
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	90.37	...	-0.10	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	94.06	...	+0.14	3.69
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	48.92	...	+0.07	3.78
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	93.89	...	+0.14	3.69
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	48.88	...	+0.07	3.76
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	732.92	...	+2.65	2.14
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1802.31	...	+0.31	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	699.74	...	+3.77	1.11

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Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	2960.00	...	-3.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.60	5.97
UK Growth Inc ‡@	214.00	...	+1.30	0.64
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1848.00	...	+5.00	1.14
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	257.40	...	+0.70	0.04

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	212.30	...	+0.50	1.10
Sus Leaders ‡@	799.60	...	+4.10	1.15
UK Growth ‡@	623.90	...	+1.20	2.04
UK Income ‡@	201.00	...	-0.20	5.09

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3590.61	...	-31.65	1.02

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	82.45	...	+0.05	4.15
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	323.40	...	+0.60	1.90
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	339.90	...	+4.10	0.59
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	121.00	...	+0.20	4.87
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	220.00	...	+1.70	1.53
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	270.60	...	+2.00	1.15

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.31	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1277.00	...	+10.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.28	...	+0.02	1.88
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	421.70	...	+0.20	2.90
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	306.00	...	+1.20	...
High Inc Trst @	10.96	11.56	+0.04	5.52
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.61	...	+0.01	3.39
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	838.20	...	+7.20	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	471.60	...	-0.60	...
Strategic Bd ‡@	192.70	...	...	1.46
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+2.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1011.00	...	...	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2156.00	...	+6.00	...
American ‡@	5433.00	...	+78.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	598.70	...	+4.00	0.31
European ‡@	3555.00	...	+9.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	21.80	...	+0.02	5.55
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5564.00	...	+47.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2935.00	...	+17.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	564.60	...	-5.10	...
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	42.40	...	-0.03	3.86
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	2.97
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.17	...	...	...
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	129.14	...	+0.07	3.14
Special Sits ‡@	4456.00	...	+27.00	2.56
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	31.34	...	+0.02	...
Ethical ‡@	113.10	...	+0.60	0.01
European ‡@	113.50	...	+0.20	1.91
Far Eastern ‡	112.00	...	+0.20	...
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	134.80	...	+0.90	0.43
Intl Gwth ‡	127.20	...	+0.70	1.44
Japanese ‡	72.09	...	+0.15	...
North Amer ‡	152.30	...	+1.30	...
Smaller Cos ‡@	102.60	...	...	1.17
Special Sits ‡@	50.02	...	+0.22	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	90.65	...	+0.07	3.75
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	70.54	...	+0.01	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	79.25	...	+0.04	...
UK Growth ‡@	81.95	...	+0.08	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	937.83	...	+14.28	...
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	743.27	...	+11.31	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1219.13	...	+5.27	2.13
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	758.83	...	+3.28	2.20
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	278.47	...	-0.79	2.99
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	124.35	...	-0.36	3.06
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	284.64	...	-2.35	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	169.71	...	-1.40	2.25
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	706.88	...	-1.90	3.02
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	351.22	...	-0.94	3.09
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	145.58	...	-0.58	1.93
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	111.30	...	-0.44	2.25
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	504.15	...	+5.80	2.64
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	306.23	...	+3.53	2.70

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	241.07	...	-0.10	0.92
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	258.62	...	+0.09	...
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	99.43	...	+0.03	3.36
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	...
Income Acc ‡@	711.88	...	-3.94	4.09
Income Inc ‡@	292.08	...	-1.62	4.22
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	126.19	...	-0.56	3.90
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	145.57	...	-1.04	4.01
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	64.25	...	-0.46	4.13
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	145.57	...	-1.04	4.01
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	64.25	...	-0.46	4.13

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	937.83	...	+14.28	...
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	743.27	...	+11.31	...
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	...
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	...
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	466.89	...	-1.18	2.27
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	193.66	...	-0.27	...
High Income Inc ‡@	314.07	...	-2.05	3.93
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	415.29	...	-1.60	3.03
Income Inc ‡@	1231.33	...	-7.63	3.49
Money Acc ‡@	93.13	...	+0.02	1.95
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	89.82	...	-0.08	6.18
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	897.11	...	-7.68	1.62
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1309.65	...	-6.95	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	697.36	...	+5.31	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	730.17	...	-2.80	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	371.57	...	+0.58	1.88
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	232.90	...	+0.45	1.90
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	126.76	...	+0.20	0.60
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	134.24	...	+0.21	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	320.24	...	+0.54	2.82
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.56	...	+0.11	4.24
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	112.30	...	+0.31	4.84
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.20	...	+0.17	6.70
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	144.39	...	+0.21	0.96
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	181.64	...	-0.28	5.02
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	70.38	...	-0.11	5.26
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	...
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	...
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	233.48	...	+1.33	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	308.95	...	+1.77	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1266.76	...	+7.86	0.38
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	189.81	...	-0.50	0.80
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	317.13	...	+2.37	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	245.30	...	+1.84	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	274.28	...	-0.42	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.83	...	+0.20	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2666.49	...	-4.12	1.95
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4623.13	...	+2.06	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4146.66	...	+1.84	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1391.22	...	+8.27	1.54
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	498.71	...	+2.96	1.57

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

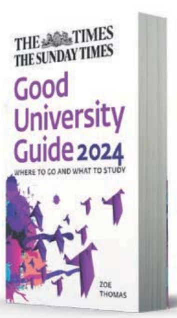
JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	109.80	...	+0.20	2.12
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	76.28	...	+0.10	6.03
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	280.10	...	...	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	136.90	...	...	...
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1041.00	...	-9.00	0.28
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	191.40	...	-0.20	0.76
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	301.50	...	+0.60	1.15
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2299.00	...	+6.00	1.15
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	27.95	...	+0.02	4.79
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4161.00	...	+15.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	66.66	...	-0.03	3.28
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3188.00	...	+64.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	114.97	...	+0.67	2.87
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	163.10	...	+0.20	0.81
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	256.00	...	+0.50	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	143.80	...	+0.20	2.71
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	186.40	...	+0.20	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	197.40	...	+0.20	1.82
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	53.60	...	+0.04	1.88
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	100.20	...	...	3.26
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	169.80	...	+0.10	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	137.20	...	+0.40	1.12
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1807.00	...	+43.00	...

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Valid until September 1, 2023. T&Cs apply.

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	0.07
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	0.08
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	...
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	...
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.85	...	+0.05	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	95.54	...	-0.12	...
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	468.10	...	+2.82	...
European ‡@	3006.42	...	+16.30	...
Financial Opps ‡@	681.54	...	-2.20	0.20
Income Trust ‡@	498.73	...	+1.93	3.92
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	230.12	...	-0.53	2.05
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	536.38	...	-0.83	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	339.15	...	-1.00	2.86
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	377.55	...	-0.22	...
UK Growth ‡@	261.14	...	+1.13	0.67
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	203.75	...	+0.61	2.15

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	2.15
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	537.60	...	+1.70	2.11
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	352.20	...	+1.10	2.16
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	126.70	...	+0.10	2.35
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	59.07	...	+0.03	2.38
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	107.60	...	+0.30	...
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	103.00	...	+1.90	...
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	0.17
High Inc Acc ‡@	121.70	...	+0.10	...
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	71.04	...	-0.01	1.75
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	201.40	...	+0.60	...
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	3.19
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	346.10	...	+0.20	3.11
UK Index Dist ‡@	164.40	...	+0.10	3.19
US Ind Acc ‡@	820.30	...	+6.30	...
Worldwide Acc ‡@	336.00	...	+1.30	0.73

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1435.28	...	-1.37	5.51

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	678.14	...	-0.67	5.01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	72.27	...	-0.04	2.59
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	38.93	...	+0.08	5.66
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	106.45	...	+0.29	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	76.69	...	+0.02	3.63
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.89	...	+0.03	2.80
UK Select A Inc ‡	2784.46	...	+2.11	2.27

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.46	...	+0.03	...
Dividend Inc ‡	51.61	...	-0.08	5.79
Recovery A Inc ‡	107.74	...	+0.19	3.50
Sml Cos Inc ‡	325.40	...	+1.41	2.41

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.45	...	+0.57	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	83.96	83.96	+0.01	4.19
High Income Acc	237.50	237.50	...	4.08
UK 100 Comp Acc @	460.10	460.10	+3.30	2.87
UK 100 Cos @	226.10	226.10	+1.70	2.94
UK Select Pflo @	340.70	340.70	+1.40	3.17
UK Selection Port Acc @	705.10	705.10	+3.00	1.49
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	933.50	933.50	+2.10	1.30
Wwide Mgd @	546.00	546.00	+1.20	1.31

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	756.30	...	+3.47	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	752.02	...	+3.44	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	925.07	...	+5.10	5.25
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	846.04	...	+4.67	5.44
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	923.55	...	+5.09	5.27
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	844.48	...	+4.65	5.46
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	929.74	...	+3.48	1.49
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	910.13	...	+3.40	1.50
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	928.42	...	+3.46	1.43
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	909.90	...	+3.40	1.43
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1317.56	...	+6.43	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1835.47	...	+8.90	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1408.76	...	+6.82	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1588.16	...	+15.91	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13722.29	...	+86.33	...
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1515.43	...	+15.17	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3756.62	...	+23.64	...
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	550.70	...	+11.39	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	550.69	...	+11.38	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	547.85	...	+11.32	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	547.85	...	+11.31	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1187.66	...	+16.67	0.62
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1266.67	...	+13.12	0.62
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1284.05	...	+13.28	0.47
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1185.65	...	+16.53	0.47
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1291.39	...	+13.38	0.62
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	116.87	...	+0.07	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	91.41	...	+0.05	3.40
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2484.51	...	+1.37	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1296.73	...	+0.72	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	930.35	...	+2.37	2.81
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	885.28	...	+2.25	2.88
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	925.79	...	+2.34	2.62
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	884.94	...	+2.24	2.67
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1516.05	...	+35.92	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	859.68	...	+23.62	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1611.67	...	+38.14	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	900.41	...	+24.70	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	228.10	...	...	1.18
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	196.90	...	-0.50	5.12
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	263.80	263.80	+0.10	3.11
UK Growth Acc ‡@	453.50	...	-1.30	3.18
UK Growth Inc ‡@	238.90	...	-0.60	3.26

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	0.78
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	1.11
Mutual Far Eastern	899.61	949.46	+0.65	...
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	+1.31	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	0.43
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	0.60
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3568.00	...	+27.00	2.03

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	389.40	...	+2.90	2.91
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	192.90	...	+1.50	2.98

UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	273.60	...	+0.70	2.49
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	100.80	...	+0.30	2.52
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	380.80	...	-0.90	1.73
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	229.90	...	+0.20	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.40	...	+0.07	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	377.70	...	+1.90	3.66
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	117.20	...	+0.60	3.74
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	182.90	...	+0.20	3.54
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	79.67	...	+0.11	3.61
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	196.10	...	...	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2336.00	...	+12.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	430.00	...	+3.20	3.00
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	191.70	...	+1.40	3.08

UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	1.79
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	1.09

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	126.60	...	...	3.27
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	1.29

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	86.64	...	+0.09	1.38
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	48.59	...	+0.05	1.39
AAA Income Acc ‡@	94.44	...	+0.09	1.79
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	203.50	...	+1.20	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	150.40	...	+0.20	3.24
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	49.94	...	+0.06	3.31
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	+3.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	147.60	...	+0.50	1.38
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	194.90	...	+0.70	1.35
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	162.20	...	+1.70	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	144.90	...	+0.20	4.40
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.67	...	+0.06	4.53
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	364.10	...	+1.50	0.69
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	+1.70	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	265.40	...	+0.10	4.49
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	71.83	...	+0.03	4.65
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	202.30	...	+1.10	2.22
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	...	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	...	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	748.60	...	+3.80	0.66

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	133.93	...	+0.55	1.25
Balanced A Inc ‡@	119.07	...	+0.49	1.26
Cautious A Acc ‡@	110.59	...	+0.18	1.81
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.20	...	+0.16	1.83
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	328.39	...	+1.77	0.91
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	294.65	...	+1.59	0.91
Growth A Acc ‡@	337.50	...	+1.63	1.09
Income A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.61	...
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	127.85	...	+0.29	1.50

Retail Shares (Class 1)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.34	...	+0.05	...
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	78.01	...	+0.26	3.55
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	51.91	...	+0.06	2.57
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	51.80	...	+0.05	2.23
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	41.70	...	...	2.46
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.02	...	+0.07	3.65
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	99.71	...	+0.49	3.40
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	92.75	...	+0.50	2.72
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	181.73	...	+0.32	1.83
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	68.19	...	+0.15	4.12
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	137.38	...	+0.63	1.43
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	349.47	...	+0.23	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	953.40	953.40	+6.90	...
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	374.44	+ .29	1.45	2.76
109.93	99.11	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	99.18	+ .07	...	1.14
114.15	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	98.05	+ .21	...	0.83
124.91	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	102.80	+ .35	1.33	0.62
119.45	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	97.58	+ .42	...	0.60
120.23	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	97.20	+ .50	...	0.62
378.34	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	333.50	+2.06	1.94	0.82
125.96	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	97.27	+ .83	...	0.47
141.12	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	106.40	+1.00	1.18	0.56
137.22	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	100.28	+1.04	...	0.72
289.48	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	236.28	+2.56	1.03	0.92
133.35	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	90.82	+1.09	...	0.85
153.04	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	103.09	+1.22	1.15	0.90
135.83	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	87.12	+ .98	...	1.01
147.71	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	93.80	+1.07	...	1.03
140.04	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	84.63	+1.08	...	1.06
153.67	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	91.98	+1.18	0.68	1.08
141.59	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	80.93	+1.17	...	1.16
143.76	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	78.74	+1.16	...	1.19
165.49	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	90.62	+1.33	0.84	1.19
146.88	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	76.87	+1.20	...	1.19
161.85	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	84.36	+1.32	...	1.18
156.29	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	77.85	+1.33	...	1.16
204.36	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	103.85	+1.83	1.32	1.11
157.78	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	73.45	+1.53	...	1.07
160.18	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	72.73	+1.46	...	1.06
179.16	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	79.67	+1.76	...	1.01
176.25	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	71.26	+1.74	...	0.95
184.74	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	70.85	+1.84	...	0.92
204.67	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	74.02	+2.04	...	0.75

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
150.24	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	75.24	+1.33	...	1.17
78.83	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	48.01	+ .78	...	4.54
133.16	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	86.96	+1.12	...	4.56
84.11	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	50.40	+ .79	...	4.53
86.73	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	51.71	+ .83	...	4.52
148.48	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	95.22	+1.26	4.46	4.53
89.85	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	52.52	+ .74	...	4.48
147.88	87.32	Tr 4% 60	91.18	+1.05	...	4.49
57.80	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	28.68	+ .48	...	4.32
111.53	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	63.34	+ .71	...	4.43
141.44	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	81.79	+ .91	...	4.44
87.11	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	45.54	+ .57	...	4.32
72.03	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	35.51	+ .49	...	4.23
103.74	85.32	Tr 3¾% 53	86.44	+1.12	...	4.58
134.92	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	103.05	+1.16	4.61	4.48
84.53	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	62.22	+ .79	...	4.51
128.40	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	96.93	+1.04	4.38	4.52
129.68	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	96.60	+1.03	...	4.53
83.88	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	59.36	+ .80	...	4.53
116.13	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	82.21	+ .94	...	4.59
136.18	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	99.33	+1.11	4.53	4.55
121.04	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	85.03	+ .98	...	4.60
136.69	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	95.00	+1.09	4.47	4.60
74.43	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	48.13	+ .73	...	4.58
85.21	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	55.21	+ .77	...	4.59
89.88	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	57.69	+ .83	...	4.57
140.37	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	94.82	+1.15	4.48	4.59
66.59	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	39.21	+ .70	...	4.51

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
103.82	97.21	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	98.42	+ .25	...	4.60
98.68	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	88.52	+ .28	...	4.30
113.58	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	99.70	+ .32	4.26	4.33
92.68	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	82.62	+ .31	...	4.27
100.63	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	87.67	+ .37	...	4.20
94.88	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	87.10	+ .23	...	4.52
99.83	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	91.62	+ .23	...	4.38
126.68	107.13	Tr 6% 28	108.46	+ .41	5.53	4.26
92.99	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	81.06	+ .38	...	4.30
95.06	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	81.77	+ .43	...	4.15
90.09	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	76.19	+ .54	...	4.15
124.13	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	103.98	+ .66	4.57	4.13
87.42	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	73.07	+ .60	...	4.17
92.63	73.06	Tr 1% 32	76.93	+ .65	...	4.20
122.11	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	100.78	+ .79	4.22	4.15
101.14	91.30	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	92.17	+ .80	...	4.25
89.47	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	72.29	+ .72	...	4.26
126.68	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	101.75	+ .96	4.42	4.30
82.71	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	65.02	+ .78	...	4.36
125.01	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	98.80	+1.06	4.30	4.37
94.18	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	71.64	+ .90	...	4.46
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	92.04	+1.04	...	4.50

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
101.50	93.15	Tr 2% 25	94.59	+ .16	...	4.53
100.88	96.83	Tr 3½% 25	97.03	+ .16	...	4.83
95.25	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	89.42	+ .19	...	4.37
97.47	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	92.74	+ .14	...	4.42
109.24	100.36	Tr 5% 25	100.51	+ .12	4.97	4.69
96.50	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	92.73	+ .12	...	4.84
102.65	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	97.59	+ .09	...	4.73
99.48	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	99.48	+ .02	...	4.25
100.94	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.38	+ .02	...	4.54
97.73	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	97.00	+ .06	...	4.74
99.13	94.79	Tr 1% 24	96.72	+ .07	...	4.83

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers should contact their fund manager.

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Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
297	89½	Aston Martin Lag	259⅛	– 5⅛	...	-1.5

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236	133	**Abrdn**	204⅝	+ 2⅞	...	4.4
2361	1729	**Admiral**‡	2336	+ 17	...	11.9
66⅛	23½	ADVFN♦	23½	...	...	4.1
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	319⅛	+ 1¾	...	29.9
27254¼	20146⅝	Aon Corpn	25115⅛	+ 81⅜	...	61.2
42¾	23⅝	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	...	...	18.3
1002½	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	942½	...	...	20.8
14	8½	Argo Group♦	9	+ ½	...	4.1
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	227⅜	– ½	...	7.7
1371	1107¾	Aus New Z	1229¼	– 17¼	...	9.6
467⅞	373¾	**Aviva**	405	+ 3¾	...	53.3
341½	193⅜	Banco Santander	273	– 3½	...	6.5
3375	1306	Bank of Georgia	3070	– 110	...	9.5
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**	155¾	– 1½	...	3.7
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.1
346	283	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	334	+ 7	...	9.2
14	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	11½	...	...	0.3
515	507	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
337	173⅞	Bridgepoint	218⅜	+ ⅛	...	13.6
65½	33½	Cenkos Secs♦‡	33½	...	...	6.8
325	262½	Chesnara	281	– 1	...	15.6
53	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
474	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	431½	– 6½	...	10.1
1148	858½	Close Bros	911	+ 6½	...	6.8
317	167	CMC Markets	177	+ 1⅜	...	5.4
1038⅞	498½	Commerzbk	831⅛	– 10⅝	...	42.6
1073¼	660½	Deutsche Bk	833¾	– 3¾	...	9.7
260⅜	135	Direct Line Ins	168⅞	+ 3¾	...	7.0
58½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6	...	Drumz♦	6	+ ⅞	...	...
129⅝	60¾	EFG-Hermes Hldg	64¾	– 7⅝	...	4.1
211	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	159	– 2½	...	8.9
1232⅞	821⅞	FBD	1119⅜	...	...	4.9
72½	66	Fiske♦	66	– 1½	...	11.7
78	59	Frenkel Topping♦	70	...	...	40.7
849	548	Georgia Capital	825	– 15	...	2.2
910	682	Gresham House♦	750	– 5	...	30.1
506	320	H&T Group♦‡	412	– 5	...	13.2
55½	33	Hansard Global	51⅞	– ½	...	17.9
983	740¾	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	814½	+ 14⅛	...	14.5
172½	143⅜	Helios Under♦	170	+ 2½	...	...
647½	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	600	– 10⅝	...	13.1
847½	648	IG Group	684	– 1	...	6.9
883	500	Impax♦	789	+ 6	...	26.0
1612	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1401	+ 53	...	8.0
114	64⅜	IPF	112½	+ 1½	...	6.3
170	136	International Public P'ship‡	139½	+ 1⅛	...	17.9
546⅜	351½	Investec	406	– 16½	...	10.2
330	253	Investment Co	330	+ 5	...	11.8
88	52½	IP Group‡	57⅞	+ ⅝	...	2.1
230	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	152½	...	...	10.9
179½	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	106⅝	– 1¼	...	3.9
95¼	55⅞	Just Group	87½	+ ½	...	...
664	368½	Lancashire Holdings‡	622	+ 4½	...	...
284¼	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	230¼	+ 2⅛	...	7.0
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	– 2⅝	...	...
1290	704	Liontrust	750	– 7	...	9.3
55¼	37½	Livermore Invs♦	38	+ ½	...	2.4
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Gp**	45⅛	– ¼	...	6.2
33½	22	LMS Capital‡	24¼	...	...	10.5
8582	6738	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	8480	– 4	...	86.7
222⅛	159⅞	**M&G**	198¼	...	...	61.9
286¾	204¼	Man	223⅛	+ 2⅜	...	8.9
29	8	Manx Fin♦	23½	...	...	11.9
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1½	– ⅛	...	0.7
14722	11702	Marsh McLn	14053⅛	+ 94¼	...	29.2
745	530	Mattioli Woods♦	635	...	...	...
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	102	– 1	...	-0.7
1727¾	1367⅞	Nat Aust Bk	1392½	– 2⅝	...	13.8
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**	265¼	– 2⅛	...	10.4
341	170⅜	Numis♦‡	334	+ ½	...	6.8
587½	375⅜	Onesavings Bank	498¾	+ 5¾	...	6.6
652	393½	PayPoint	393½	...	...	12.3
6½	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
684⅛	506¾	**Phoenix**	562	+ 6	...	-6.5
260	136¼	Provident	225	...	...	4.2
1371½	797½	**Prudential**	1125	...	...	18.2
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1⅞	...	...	...
122⅞	80¼	Quilter	83⅛	+ 1¼	...	59.3
109¾	51	Randall & Quilter♦	51	– 1	...	76.0
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1966	+ 16	...	15.2
1⅛	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
2050	1370	Rockwood Strategic	2050	...	...	3.0
2540	1905	S & U	2520	+ 30	...	11.9
2	⅝	Sancus Lending Grp♦	⅝	...	...	-0.3
56¾	40⅝	Schroder REIT	43½	+ ⅛	...	4.6
604⅜	358¾	**Schroders**	460	+ 3¼	...	2.1
1304½	920	**St James Place**‡	1128	+ 15½	...	21.4
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**	643⅛	– 6⅛	...	14.4
12	7	Starvest♦	7	+ ½	...	-1.1
29	22½	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
4099¼	3210½	Sun Life Can	3906¼	– 81⅝	...	9.9
10	5¾	Tavistock Inv♦	7½	+ ¼	...	1.2
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group‡	2355	– 40	...	6.8
16¾	3¾	Tern♦	4¼	+ ¾	...	3.2
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	28½	– ⅝	...	17.3
1245	900	Volvere♦	1200	...	...	...
42	18½	WH Ireland♦	22	...	...	12.3
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
3932	2937¼	Wells Fargo	3265⅛	– 57⅛	...	8.9
1292⅞	1012⅝	Westpac	1108⅜	– 2⅝	...	15.0
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	29¼	...	...	91.5
41017⅞	34890¾	Zurich Fincl	38090⅜	+ 151½	...	14.8

Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	133	Alumasc♦	167½	– 5	...	8.5
11¼	8⅞	Aseana Props	9¼	...	...	-4.6
71¾	47⅝	Assura	47¾	...	...	9.5
2¾	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
393⅜	247⅜	Balfour Beatty‡	369¾	– 3	...	17.5
514	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	473	– ¾	...	7.3
2500	1586½	Bellway‡	2276	+ 8	...	6.8
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	3983	+ 8	...	10.3
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1132	+ 15	...	7.4
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	405	...	...	32.9
345	218	Boot (Henry)‡	238	+ 2	...	12.7
536	324¾	**Br Land**	343⅜	– 2¼	...	47.0
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
64¾	43¾	Cap & Regnl‡	58¾	+ ½	...	-0.5
2550	2310	Cardiff Prop‡	2430	+ 60	...	26.4
25	2½	Carecapital♦	7	– ½	...	-0.8
170	106	Clarke T‡	150	+ ½	...	10.7
291⅜	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
28⅜	6	Craven House♦	13⅝	...	...	-0.2
4353	2756½	**CRH**	3873	– 55	...	16.0
3022	1876	Derwent London‡	2154	– 2	...	9.6
4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	...	...	-2.6
31½	22	First Prop♦	27½	...	...	...
47½	37½	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
44	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	37⅜	...	...	...
185⅛	145	Galliford Try	177	– 3⅜	...	39.3
470	252½	Genuit Group	315	– ½	...	19.0
574	335	Gleeson (MJ)	425	...	...	6.6
988⅝	630½	Grafton	825½	+ 6	...	9.5
312¾	205⅜	Grainger‡	247⅛	– ⅜	...	15.3
658½	409⅛	Great Portland	492⅜	+ 2	...	-6.1
30½	17⅛	Hammerson	25¼	+ ½	...	-2.7
171	101	Harworth Gp	122½	+ 2½	...	4.2
630	425	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
431½	258½	Helical PLC	258½	+ 3	...	6.2
1065	865	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
208⅛	148¼	Ibstock	162½	+ ½	...	21.1
234	176	James Halstead♦‡	214	– 1½	...	22.7
849	591	Keller	704	...	...	8.1
6786	3903½	Kingspan Group	5419⅞	– 56⅛	...	21.3
774½	485¼	**Land Sec**	605⅜	+ 6⅜	...	...
100¼	58	Life Science Reit	74⅛	+ ⅛	...	...
25	12	Lon & Assoc	12	...	...	-1.6
261	161¾	Londonmetric Property	174½	+ 2	...	3.7
61¾	37	Macau Prop Op	59¾	– 1	...	-7.7
545½	225⅜	Marshalls	299¾	+ 6	...	10.9
114½	74	Michelmersh♦	92½	...	...	14.7
2120	1392	Morgan Sindall	1830	...	...	8.9
13900	10800	Mountview	11100	...	...	13.8
99½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	83¼	+ ¼	...	-2.9
291	195	Palace Capital	233	+ 6	...	11.1
335	260	Panther Securities♦	300	– 10	...	2.7
2254	1138½	**Persimmon**	1215½	– 10½	...	4.9
5½	2	Pires Investments♦	2	...	...	-4.4
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
148½	98⅝	Primary Health Properties	99⅜	– ⅝	...	10.1
38½	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	30	...	...	3.9
585	372½	Redrow	491	+ 2⅛	...	6.0
1177	794	Safestore	927½	+ 4	...	5.2
1190	763½	Savills	907½	– 12	...	9.0
6¼	5⅝	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
1129	694	**Segro**	798	+ 10¾	...	2.3
44⅜	27¾	SIG	41⅛	– ¼	...	...
69	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	58⅛	+ ⅛	...	...
116⅜	66½	Sirius Real Estate	79⅝	+ 1	...	6.2
173½	160½	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
50	30½	Steppe Cement♦	36	– 1	...	8.2
132⅜	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	115½	...	...	7.6
178½	129	Town Centre‡	138½	– 3½	...	5.4
1223½	738	Travis Perkins	902	+ 8⅜	...	8.7
204¾	125⅝	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	139	+ ⅞	...	2.5
98¼	57	Tritax Eurobox‡	59⅞	...	...	...
306½	184½	Tyman	273½	+ 2	...	10.8
1207	791½	**Unite**	893½	+ 7½	...	10.4
938½	519½	Vistry Group‡	743½	+ 3½	...	6.5
165	91	Warehouse REIT	101½	+ 1½	...	2.4
722	343⅜	Workspace Grp	504	+ 5⅜	...	-7.4
755	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	675	+ 10	...	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5¾	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	32½	– 4	...	12.0
952	740	Anglo-Eastern	845	+ 25	...	7.7
306	147½	Animalcare♦	177	– 4½	...	...
2070	1237	**AB Foods**	1830½	– 30½	...	30.2
121	79	Bakkavor Group‡	92⅛	+ 1⅛	...	9.6
561	432	Barr (AG)‡	508	– 2	...	18.0
3⅞	1½	Bidstack Group♦	1¾	...	...	-1.5
67	24½	Brand Architekts♦	33½	...	...	-1.4
3628	2597½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2597½	– 72½	...	8.7
936	707½	Britvic‡	885	– 12½	...	20.0
2641	1580	**Burberry**	2208	– 7	...	19.0
207	131	C&C Grp	143	+ 1	...	-8.5
6⅜	2⅛	Capital Metals♦	2⅛	– 1⅜	...	-0.5
144¾	92	Carr's Grp‡	144¾	– ½	...	17.8
535	296	Character Grp♦	304	+ 1	...	5.4
1640	1070	Churchill China♦‡	1375	– 50	...	...
2565	1674	**Coca Cola HBC**‡	2384	– 38	...	19.0
880	610	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
3340	2586	Cranswick	3226	+ 56	...	17.0
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3960	3402½	**Diageo**	3402½	– 95½	...	26.1
1⅜	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	13.1
1000	784	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	786	+ 6	...	6.7
103½	68	Finsbury Food♦	93	...	...	11.0
9920	5690	Games Workshop	9410	– 25	...	25.9
1229⅞	844¼	Glanbia	1177¼	– 1⅝	...	29.0
114½	60¾	Greencore	79	+ 3¼	...	15.8
348	231	Headlam‡	238	– 2	...	10.2
1132	500	Hilton Food	730	– 2	...	15.2
31½	22	Hornby♦	23	...	...	...
2185	1698½	**Imperial Brands**‡	1698½	– 37	...	5.6
1½	1¼	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	...	...	7.7
9458⅞	7255¾	Kerry Gp	8147⅛	+ 4¼	...	22.5
35	15½	McBride	30½	...	...	-5.4
305	205	Mulberry Group♦	255	...	...	10.5
1332½	975	Nichols♦	975	– 25	...	...
249	165	Norcros	172¼	– ¾	...	5.4
380½	296	Origin Ents♦	324⅛	– 8⅝	...	10.2
14½	⅛	Pittards♦	6⅜	...	...	3.0
512½	300	Portmeirion♦‡	425	– 1	...	18.0
⅞	⅝	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	170⅜	PZ Cussons	188	– 4½	...	21.6
161	87¾	REA	87¾	– 2¼	...	-6.9
2⅜	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
340	235	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
904	507	Treatt	701	– 3	...	28.1
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2	– ¼	...	-1.3
5051	4092½	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3475½	**Unilever**‡	4045	– 124	...	20.7
596	317	Victoria♦	502	+ 10	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1200	739	Avon Rubber	858	+ 23	...	...
367½	268½	Babcock	310⅜	+ 2	...	-1.9
1032	714	**BAE**	942⅜	– 8	...	17.2
2150	1250	Braime A N/V♦	1250	...	...	14.1
1750	1500	Braime Group♦	1750	+ 100	...	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
5	1¼	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.7
380	279	Castings	380	+ 2	...	18.3
5	3	Chamberlin♦	3	...	...	-0.2
36	14	Checkit♦	24½	...	...	-2.9
560	391	Cohort♦	490½	– 4½	...	43.6
400	190	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1390	1020⅜	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
340	192¼	Dialight	230	...	...	...
1301½	859½	Electrolux 'B'	1102½	– 37	...	8.3
182½	85½	Feedback♦	117½	...	...	...
940	426	Gooch Hsego♦	550	...	...	40.7
4490	2400	Goodwin	4400	+ 30	...	24.3
2498	1876½	**Halma**	2403	+ 8	...	34.7
1474	893	Hill & Smith	1474	+ 18	...	34.6
121½	71½	Holders Tech♦‡	76	...	...	4.6
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.6
1674	1071	IMI	1614	+ 5	...	22.0
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10025	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9440	+ 140	...	47.6
87	72½	LPA♦	87	...	...	...
798¾	768⅛	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
510⅜	286½	**Melrose**	477¾	+ 2¾	...	...
325	217	Morgan Advanced	290	+ 5	...	12.2
433	227½	Mpac♦	257½	+ 2½	...	6.7
745	260	MS Intl♦	480	+ 34	...	68.5
2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2720	+ 30	...	37.1
2116⅛	1055⅜	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
17½	12¼	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
89½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	41½	– ½	...	-3.4
4338	3342	Renishaw	3904	+ 92	...	22.2
31	20½	Renold♦	28⅛	– ¼	...	10.0
158	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	144⅜	– 4⅝	...	98.2
1¾	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342⅛	229½	Rotork	319⅛	– 6⅜	...	34.7
200	134	SDI Group♦	134	– 4	...	22.1
181⅛	111	Senior	172⅜	+ ⅜	...	30.0
66	48	Severfield	63¾	– ⅜	...	11.3
15½	6⅞	Six Hundred♦	6⅞	+ ⅛	...	40.2
1618⅜	1089¾	SKF B	1316	– 15½	...	9.7
300	215	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
1797½	1364	**Smiths**	1629	– 13	...	25.9
1435	986	Solid State♦	1110	– 5	...	26.7
470	324	Somero Enter♦	332½	+ 2½	...	7.3
3841	2690	Spectris‡	3698	– 3	...	12.1
12350	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**	11070	– 25	...	34.8
57½	28½	Surface Trsfms♦	36	...	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	3⅛	...	...	-9.0
440	345	Thorpe FW♦	366	...	...	25.4
2⅝	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
95½	48½	Transense Tech♦	86	...	...	63.2
3500	3070	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
435	284½	Vesuvius‡	412¾	+ 2½	...	11.0
1530	662	Videndum	662	+ 3	...	12.1
323½	202	Volex♦	274½	+ 4	...	14.9
2021	1328½	**Weir**‡	1726	– 7½	...	29.1
3290	1464	XP Power	2105	+ 10	...	11.2
160	97½	Zytronic♦	102½	...	...	34.1

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
316	219½	AdvancedMedical♦‡	223	– 7	...	35.0
22	5	Allergy Therap♦#	6¼	+ 1¼	...	-7.3
150	16½	Angle♦	18¼	...	...	-2.4
603	178½	Anpario♦	178½	– 5	...	9.3
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	11498	– 286	...	...
36	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
248½	199	**Convatec**	206	– 1⅛	...	48.1
58⅜	25⅜	Creighton	35	...	...	6.7
3810	2520	Dechra Pharma	3352	+ 212	...	50.0
1½	¾	Deltex Medical♦	1¼	...	...	-7.6
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	17½	+ ½	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	113½	...	...	13.7
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	28¼	+ ⅝	...	8.0
56⅞	28⅛	Futura Medical♦	41½	+ ¼	...	...
3272	2298	Genus	2496	– 6	...	44.4
1820⅝	1296	**GSK**‡	1371	– 21⅛	...	15.8
½	¼	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.7
353½	246⅛	**Haleon**	321¾	– 8⅛	...	...
1874	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1798	– 53½	...	13.4
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	198	– 15	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	3	...	...	-0.9
7025	1365	Indivior	1461	– 12	...	83.6
105	42	Inspiration Health♦	45	+ 1½	...	6.9
41½	17½	IXICO♦	19½	...	...	6.2
501½	378⅜	Mediclinic	501	+ ½	...	31.3

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1974	1042	**3i Group**	1959	+ 21	...	10.6
363	281½	3i Infrastructure	314	...	...	-7.0
102½	80¼	Abrdn Div I&G	87	...	...	-25.3
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1250	+ 6	...	-13.7
1046	876	Alliance	1002	– 4	...	-6.2
457	345	Asia Dragon Tr	378	– 3	...	-13.4
230	171½	Athelney Trust	190	+ 5	...	-15.9
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	189¾	– ½	...	-10.5
348	204½	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	213½	– 6½	...	-12.3
102⅛	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	92⅞	– ⅝	...	-14.5
829	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	731	– 9	...	-9.3
168	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	140½	– 1⅜	...	-9.9
183	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	164	...	...	-14.7
109½	90⅞	Bankers	97¾	– 1½	...	-10.9
5232	380	BH Macro	409	– 7	...	5.3
1048	745⅜	Biotech Growth	822	– 12	...	-8.4
151	95	BlckRck Com Inc	116	+ 1	...	-9.0
144½	116½	BlckRck Fro Inv	137	– 1½	...	-7.3
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	542	– 2	...	-5.5
206	165	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	191	...	...	-9.0
454	330	BlckRck Latin Am	378	– 7	...	-13.8
215	180	BlckRck SustAm	182	– 1	...	-6.5
1526	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1308	+ 8	...	-12.8
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	586	+ 5	...	-6.2
774	524	BlckRck Wld Min	594	– 1	...	-0.7
325	256	CT Cap&Inc	299½	– 1½	...	-3.4
122	68½	Balanced Comm Prop	81¾	+ ⅜	...	-31.3
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	142	– ½	...	-13.3
534	375½	CT Priv Eq Ord	473	– 7	...	-31.3
93¾	60	CT Real Estate	78⅜	+ 1	...	-20.4
90	71	CT UK HIT	82½	– ½	...	-7.0
93	79	CT UK HIT B	90½	...	...	1.1
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	329	– 1	...	-7.6
1335	1072½	Brown Advsr US Sm	1185	+ 10	...	-15.1
1115	888	Brunner	1052½	– 2½	...	-12.7
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3400	– 30	...	-32.2
175	141	Invesco BondInc	162	+ ½	...	1.4
432	366½	City of Lon IT	403½	– 3½	...	1.9
121	75	Crystal Amber Fd	81	...	...	-31.8
580	454	Dunedin Entp	560	...	...	-8.3
690	537	Edinburgh IT	656	– 4	...	-7.8
214	146⅜	Edin Wwide	148	– ½	...	-18.1
336	268	EP Global Opp	324	+ 6	...	-12.4
105	74½	European Assets	89⅜	– ½	...	-9.0
796	608	European Opp Tr	780	...	...	-12.0
989	769	**F&C Invest Tr**	894	– 1	...	-5.8
530⅞	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	510	– 8	...	-1.6
294¼	178⅛	Fidelity China Sp	208	– 7	...	-9.4
362	258½	Fidlty Euro Val	351½	– 3	...	-4.8
185	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	178	– 1½	...	-7.0
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	272	– 2	...	-6.9
923	731¾	Fins Gwth & Inc	886	– 5	...	-4.0
118¾	81	GCP Infrastructure	82½	+ 1⅜	...	-27.1
659⅞	552⅝	Gen Emer Mkts	580½	– 5⅜	...	-15.2
45	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	31	...	...	-16.8
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	148	– 1	...	-9.8
194⅝	161	Hansa Investment	166	...	...	-45.4
196	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	163	+ 3	...	-47.4
2489	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2175	– 5	...	-43.4
165½	120½	Hend Euro Foc	155	...	...	-12.9
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	170	+ 1½	...	-0.4
952	674¼	Hend Smlr	792	+ 3	...	-13.2
1966	1540	Herald	1790	+ 10	...	-15.2
418	310	HgCapital Trust	400	+ 3½	...	-15.1
183⅜	138⅞	HICL Infra	144⅛	+ 2	...	-13.3
450	216	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1156	+ 6	...	-39.6
486⅜	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	407½	– 6	...	-4.1
374	279	Invesco Asia Tr	325	+ 6	...	-13.1
175	141	Invesco BondInc	162	+ ½	...	1.4
157⅜	110½	IPST Bal	131½	...	...	-11.8
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	232	...	...	-14.2
101¾	92	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.7
179	141	IPST UK Eq	162½	+ 7½	...	-15.8
504	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	429	– 3	...	-9.1
800	650	JPM American	736	– 1	...	-3.7
402	222	JPM Asia	350½	– 1½	...	-8.8
451½	239½	JPM Chinese	259	– 7	...	-9.5
726	624	JPM Claverhs	654	– 10	...	-4.6
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	104	– 2	...	-9.2
449	339	JPM Euro disc	401	– 7	...	-13.4
142½	107½	JPM GEMI	128½	+ ½	...	-10.4
481	386	JPM GG&I	460½	– 4	...	0.8
898	719⅞	JPM Indian	824	+ 4	...	-18.6
353	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	313	– 1½	...	-10.5
510	408½	JPM Japan#	480½	– 5	...	-7.5
1012	735	JPM Mid Cap	890	+ 6	...	-14.2
104	85¼	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	91¼	– 1¾	...	-2.8
1⅛	134¾	"JPM Em E	GBX	+ 111½	...	...
315	230	JPM Smllr Co	267½	– ½	...	-13.6
244½	174	Keystone IT	210	+ 2	...	-17.5
871	649	Law Debenture	800	– 6	...	1.6
135	99	Lowland	120	...	...	-9.7
223	156¾	Majedie	199½	– ½	...	-17.1
354	272⅛	M Currie Port	351	– 1	...	...
117	89⅞	Marwyn Val In	96	...	...	-42.5
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	199	+ ¾	...	-14.1
606	480	Merchants	550	– 6	...	1.0
768	639¾	Mid Wynd	699	+ 4	...	-3.2
1102	875	Monks Inv Tst	985	– 2	...	-11.1
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	138¾	– 1⅜	...	-12.1
897	715	Murray Income Trust	848	...	...	-7.7
275¾	225½	Murray Int	262½	– 1	...	...
85	70½	Nb Global Floating	73¼	+ 1¼	...	-8.1
384	258	Pacific Assets	371	– 2	...	-5.9
309	229⅛	Pantheon Int	271½	– ½	...	-40.4
3115	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2760	– 40	...	-37.1
501½	463¾	Personal Assets	471½	– 2½	...	-1.0
2288¾	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2225	+ 30	...	-13.8
202	130	Prem Glb & Inf	142	– ½	...	-14.1
148½	112½	Renewables Inf	119⅜	+ ¾	...	-11.5
2570	1789⅞	RIT Cap Ptnr	1852	– 4	...	-21.5
750	530⅜	Riverstone	569	– 5	...	-47.6
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	412	– 5	...	-4.3
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	490½	– 3	...	-11.5
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	296	– 2	...	-1.5
224	187	Schrod Jap Gwth	221	– 2	...	-8.7
626	454	Schrod UKMid	536	+ 2	...	-14.4
24¼	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	14⅜	+ ⅝	...	-50.2
543	434	Scot American	525	...	...	-0.2
937¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	673⅛	+ 6¾	...	-19.6
242	205	Secs Tst Scot	217	+ 1	...	-2.2
99⅜	75½	Sequoia Eco	80	...	...	-12.7
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	226	– 1	...	-5.7
166	128½	Tplton Emg Mkt	146⅜	– 2	...	-13.7
⅜	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
421	263	TR Property	282½	– 3½	...	-6.4
76	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	71⅜	+ ½	...	-2.4
230	122	Utilico Ord	143½	...	...	-28.1
229	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	220	– 2	...	-14.6
712	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	548	...	...	-17.3
237½	199¾	Witan	228½	...	...	-8.6
3500	2820	Ww Health	3190	– 55	...	-8.8



12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	1⅝	...	...	-2.0
8394⅜	6627	Novartis	7757⅛	-168⅜	...	9.8
4	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
11	4¾	Ovoca Bio♦	7½	...	...	-2.1
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	442	+½	...	19.8
5	2	Physiomics♦	2⅛	...	...	-8.2
5¼	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	4⅞	...	...	...
6808	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**	6290	-126	...	...
63½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	41	...	...	-3.9
223	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	115	...	...	...
1321½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1215	-10½	...	27.5
250	203	Spire Hcare‡	226	-3	...	...
35	7⅜	Synairgen♦	9	+½	...	-0.3
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	51	...	...	...
46½	15½	Totally♦	19¾	...	...	31.3
420	295	Tristel♦	353	+13	...	72.7
25¾	8⅞	ValiRx♦	9¼	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
128¾	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	73	...	...	...
4700¼	3379⅛	BASF	3974⅝	-62⅝	...	7.8
5804⅞	4124	Bayer DM50	4617¾	-80⅜	...	53.9
195	46½	Biome Tech♦	110	-7½	...	-3.6
3⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	1¾	...	...	...
7	6¾	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp	68⅛	+⅛	...	15.2
7482	5908	**Croda**	6108	-130	...	26.6
1125	575	Cropper (James)♦	880	...	...	26.8
129	87⅝	Elementis	108½	+1½	...	...
27½	11	Hardide♦	12½	...	...	-2.4
2373	1741½	**Johnson Math**	1741½	-49	...	21.9
1705	1242	**Mondi**	1276½	-6	...	9.7
100	77½	Robinson♦	93½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**	309	-3¾	...	17.5
747	447	Swire Pacific	544⅝	-8⅛	...	...
19	6¾	Symph Environ♦	7¼	+¼	...	...
332¾	88	Synthomer	91¾	-6⅝	...	1.9
2684½	2050	Takeda Pharm	2617⅞	+1⅝	...	14.6
7	2¼	Velocys♦	2⅜	...	...	-3.0
1931	1504	Victrex‡	1547	-8	...	18.4
651	425	Wynnstay Group♦	430	+2½	...	9.8
410	233	Zotefoams‡	365	-6	...	21.9

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
210⅜	51⅝	888 Hldgs	69	-3¼	...	5.1
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	715	+9	...	18.8
680	370	Best of the Best♦	565	...	...	6.3
1011½	501⅜	Carnival	796⅜	-¾	...	-1.2
130½	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
28¼	¾	Cineworld	1	...	...	...
339	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	283	...	...	14.4
1587½	1075½	**Entain**	1374½	-27½	...	30.7
16725	7614	**Flutter Ent**	15770	-315	...	...
32¾	22	Gaming Realms♦	30	-1¼	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	135	+25	...	8.1
145	120	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
5784	4193	**InterContinental Hotels**	5314	-38	...	49.7
1¼	¾	Minoan Gp♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.3
214	102	Mitch & Butlers	201¾	-6	...	...
218	92½	On The Beach	101½	-2½	...	-5.3
1600	1020	PPHE Hotels‡	1080	-10	...	-8.7
112	52⅜	Rank Grp	97	-2	...	13.1
56½	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	45⅞	...	...	-8.6
50½	30½	Rotala♦	46½	...	...	...
25	15½	Sportech♦	18⅞	...	...	...
277⅞	184¾	SSP	264⅜	+1⅜	...	-5.1
5¾	1⅞	Tasty♦	3	...	...	4.0
295	65	Tintra♦	100	-2½	...	-1.7
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	519	-12	...	-5.4
3⅛	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	710½	-2	...	-6.6
3330	2285	**Whitbread**‡	3307	+50	...	...
1308	870	Young & Co - A♦	1185	+5	...	...
835	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	807	+11	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
88	52½	Aeorema Comms♦	78½	...	...	21.7
48	20½	Altitude Group♦	40	...	...	...
85½	70½	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
315½	176⅛	Ascential	227⅜	-2½	...	...
675	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	621⅜	-5	...	30.6
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	410½	-10	...	16.9
8	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	5½	...	...	...
172½	71	Catalyst Media♦	137½	...	...	...
¼	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Daily Mail‡	270	-2½	...	10.3
150	100	DCD Media♦#	100	-30	...	5.0
64	43	Ebiquity♦	48	...	...	...
1466	1030	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+2	...	...
2006	752½	Future	752½	-23½	...	12.9
1400	930	GlobalData♦	1340	...	...	66.3
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	46½	IG Design Grp♦	139½	-8	...	20.4
729	501¾	**Informa**	703¾	-1¾	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV	71	-½	...	7.6
10¼	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4⅝	...	...	...
8⅝	1¾	Live Company Gp♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-6.0
46½	26½	Merit Grp♦	43	...	...	...
52½	3	Mirada♦	3	...	...	-0.1
68½	42	Mission Group♦	50	-½	...	8.4
280⅜	168⅞	Moneysupermarket	251⅜	-1⅛	...	25.6
1740⅝	1212	News Corp A	1500⅜	+6⅜	...	24.4
1756¾	1237⅞	News Corp B	1510⅞	+8¾	...	24.6
1146	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	-25	...	...
995⅛	734½	**Pearson**	807	+6¾	...	38.6
107	69⅛	Photo-Me	107	+5	...	18.6
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	2¾	-⅛	...	5.1
187½	108½	Quarto	172	+4½	...	9.5
124	67	Reach‡	73½	+½	...	81.7
1⅜	¾	REACT Grp♦	1⅜	...	...	20.0
2722	2081	**Relx**‡	2485	-2	...	32.7
663	445⅜	**Rightmove**	524¾	-4⅜	...	29.7
140	65	SpaceandPeople♦	90	-10	...	...
315	245	STV Group	247½	+1½	...	6.0
310	122½	System1 Group♦	180	...	...	8.6
3009⅜	2283¾	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2530⅛	...	...	13.8
2785⅝	2154	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2352⅞	-4	...	12.9
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.0
356	222	Wilmington	286	-5	...	18.2
1051½	725¾	**WPP**	877½	+4½	...	16.7
116½	77½	Zinc Media♦	107½	-5	...	-6.8

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
33⅞	16¾	AFC Energy♦	16¾	-⅝	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	⅛	...	...	-2.8
¾	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
90⅛	64	Alumina	74	+¼	...	15.4
1¼	⅝	Aminex	1	...	...	-5.8
1¾	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1¾	...	...	...
718509¾	4481	Anglo Amer Plat	4481	-8⅜	...	3.2
4017½	2265	**Anglo American**	2265	-53½	...	4.4
121	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	105½	-½	...	9.1
1805	991½	**Antofagasta**	1363	-26½	...	14.1
4⅞	2⅞	Arc Minerals♦	3⅜	...	...	2.5
3⅞	2½	Ariana Res♦	2½	...	...	3.3
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.4
3¼	1¼	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
2	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
402½	188	Atalaya Mine♦	321	-12	...	4.0
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
6	1¾	Beowulf Mining♦	1¾	...	...	-7.7
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
2855	2034	BHP Group	2249	-38	...	9.8
5⅜	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2¼	...	...	...
21¼	13⅝	Bougainville	19⅜	...	...	...
4¾	1	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
567½	363⅞	**BP**‡	466½	-10¼	...	16.9
16⅝	8¾	Cadence Min♦	9¼	-½	...	0.9
2⅝	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	...	...	23.6
1350	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1040	-5	...	10.1
555¼	192⅜	Capricorn Energy	198	+½	...	1.5
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	6¼	-¼	...	...
125½	74⅜	Centamin	100⅛	+¾	...	15.5
292½	190⅜	Cent Asia Metals♦	190⅜	-5⅛	...	5.5
15¼	7⅜	Chaarat Gold♦	11½	+½	...	...
23	13½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	16¼	+⅝	...	...
6	1¼	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
⅜	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.0
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	26¾	-¾	...	...
1¼	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
10134⅞	88	DRD Gold	88	-¼	...	10.3
1¼	¼	ECR Minerals♦	⅜	...	...	-2.5
19	4¾	Edenville Energy♦	5½	...	...	-0.3
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	¾	-⅛	...	-5.8
2184	1461	**Endeavour**	2034	+24	...	30.2
32⅝	14⅞	EnQuest	14⅞	-½	...	0.9
8	2¼	Eurasia Mining♦	2¾	...	...	...
3	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1¼	...	...	11.5
193⅛	94¼	Ferrexpo	94¼	-4⅜	...	0.7
968	644	**Fresnillo**	648½	-7⅜	...	15.3
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	17½	Galantas Gold♦	17½	-½	...	-2.9
7¼	2¾	GCM Resources♦	2⅞	...	...	-2.4
58½	22⅝	Gem Diamonds	23¾	+¼	...	2.4
28¾	12⅛	Getech♦	13¼	...	...	-3.1
578	400	**Glencore**‡	416¾	-5¾	...	15.2
½	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.1
133233⅞	1185⅝	Gold Fields	1185⅝	+1¼	...	18.2
12½	7½	Goldplat♦	7¾	...	...	5.8
8⅛	2½	Goldstone Res♦	2⅞	...	...	...
13¼	6½	Greatld Gld♦	7½	+¼	...	...
96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	86⅜	+1	...	9.5
310	129⅝	Gulf Keystone	130½	+⅜	...	8.1
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	13⅝	-⅜	...	1.1
115¼	51½	Hochschild	72¾	+⅝	...	7.0
168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	134	-6	...	...
356½	187½	Hunting PLC	228½	+27	...	-5.8
106½	14⅞	IGas Energy♦	14⅞	...	...	-0.7
⅜	...	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
317	195	Indus Gas♦	195	-11	...	20.2
¾	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-5.2
313½	67	ITM Power♦	67	-1½	...	...
15¼	7⅛	Jubilee Metals♦	7⅛	...	...	6.0
2¾	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	2⅝	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	¾	...	...	-3.4
495	380½	Kenmare Res	430	-4½	...	5.0
27½	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
23½	10⅞	Landore Res♦	10⅞	-¼	...	-2.4
½	⅛	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅛	...	...	-4.0
16	12½	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
8¾	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	8	-⅛	...	...
21½	3⅛	MC Mining♦	9¼	-⅛	...	-1.9
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1⅝	...	...	2.8
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G#	10	+¼	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	-5⅜	...	60.3
⅛	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
¼	...	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-1.9
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
17⅛	4⅛	Orosur Mining♦	4⅛	...	...	-6.2
21⅛	12¾	Pan African Res♦	13⅛	-¼	...	4.3
140¼	16¾	Pantheon Res♦	18¼	+1½	...	...
79	20¼	Parkmead Grp♦	22¼	+1	...	-1.9
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	...	...	-3.7
120	64¾	Petra Diamonds	65⅛	-2¾	...	2.1
2¾	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.6
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	4¾	...	...	...
150⅜	46	Petrofac	70½	-1⅛	...	-1.8
1⅛	...	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
1¾	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	-⅛	...	1.6
7½	3¾	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
4½	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅞	...	...	-0.7
350	168	Polymetal Intl	190	+10	...	...
698	499	Porvair‡	642	+16	...	24.6
19¼	3¾	Prospex Energy♦	8¾	...	...	...
14⅝	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	9¾	+¼	...	-1.7
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	-⅛	...	-5.8
27¼	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	⅛	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.6
⅝	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
6777¾	4632½	Rio Tinto Ltd	5739¼	+10½	...	6.0
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**	4839½	-85½	...	5.0
41⅛	19⅞	San Leon Energy♦	28¼	+½	...	10.5
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
47	22½	Serabi Gold♦	27¼	...	...	3.7
450	207½	Serica Energy♦	214	-13⅞	...	...
13½	8½	Shanta Gold♦‡	11⅜	-⅛	...	7.1
2604½	1936⅜	**Shell**‡	2282	-70½	...	12.0
2½	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1¾	...	...	11.0
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.2
⅝	⅛	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
5323	3891⅜	Total Eng SE	4734⅜	-191⅞	...	10.8
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.9
57⅛	22½	Tullow Oil	25⅛	-½	...	2.5
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-1.9
416	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
⅞	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅝	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¾	2⅛	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	140¼	...	...	-5.7
6⅝	¼	Woodbois♦	¼	...	...	1.4
5¼	1¼	Xtract Resources♦	1½	...	...	-2.7
7¼	3⅝	Zephyr Energy♦	3⅝	+⅛	...	-4.7

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5090	2240	4imprint Grp‡	4485	+35	...	75.6
580	460	Andrews Sykes♦‡	580	+42½	...	18.5
5874	3359	**Ashtead**	4938	+17	...	24.0
17½	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
120	52	AssetCo♦	52	-1	...	0.3
53½	38½	Avisen♦	50½	...	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	123	-½	...	...
207	155	Blancco Tech♦	163½	-2½	...	58.6
3225	2575	**Bunzl**‡	3158	-36	...	23.9
42⅝	22⅝	Capita	32⅞	...	...	2.5
45	36	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
150	105½	Christie Group♦	122½	...	...	52.1
2235	1641	**Compass**	2206	-10	...	53.6
252	97	CPPGroup♦	191½	...	...	...
75	47¼	Croma Security♦	47½	...	...	6.8
5656	4030	**DCC**‡	4666	-44	...	15.4
104	39	De La Rue	39	...	...	5.1
3084	2158	Diploma‡	3008	+54	...	53.8
914	597	Discoverie	788	+1	...	64.5
34½	23½	Driver Group♦	33	...	...	15.7
325½	175⅛	Essentra‡	184⅜	+2	...	20.7
3160	2285	**Experian**	2824	-4	...	36.2
12380	8680	Ferguson	11950	+80	...	17.6
274	215	FIH Group♦	274	+14	...	...
11	5¼	Grafenia♦	10	...	...	-7.4
588	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	386	-4	...	4.0
735	450	Impellam Grp♦	712½	+10	...	38.9
19⅜	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4743	3619	**Intertek**‡	4195	-58	...	23.5
251⅜	115⅜	IWG	144½	+1⅜	...	-5.5
125⅜	77	Johnson Srvce♦	109	-2	...	68.1
181½	106	Journeo♦	165	...	...	37.0
81⅞	56½	Kier Gp	79⅞	+1	...	7.8
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1230	...	...	6.7
1032½	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	902	-16	...	27.3
3750	2300	Lon Security♦	2900	+150	...	16.0
366	220	LSL Prop Services‡	256	-4	...	7.1
125½	86	Macfarlane‡	108	+1	...	12.5
315	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	135	+25	...	4.1
2200	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	19½	+3	...	...
247	182	Mears Group	241	...	...	20.9
608	590	Menzies (John)	607	-1	...	48.0
94⅞	55	Mitie Gp	89	-⅜	...	44.5
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5	...	...	3.7
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	53½	...	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	6¼	-¼	...	...
61½	37	Northern Bear♦	49½	...	...	5.0
286	217	NWF Grp♦	259½	+2½	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	440½	-1⅜	...	11.9
68	46	PCI-PAL♦	56½	...	...	...
12	6⅞	Petards♦	7½	+⅜	...	13.6
26½	13	PHSC♦	13½	-½	...	24.5
2¼	⅝	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅝	...	...	-1.1
98	61	Record	84⅛	-1	...	23.1
437½	283½	Redde Northgate	374½	-1½	...	9.4
757	555	Renew Hldgs♦	733	...	...	18.1
851	489	Renewi	538	+1	...	11.3
649⅛	445	**Rentokil**	633⅛	+⅜	...	44.9
466	250	Restore♦	250	-8	...	29.7
600	338½	Ricardo	566	-2	...	50.5
600	408	Robert Walters	432	+4	...	9.8
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15½	+1	...	2.3
239	96¾	RPS Group	221	-1	...	...
1159	788¾	**RS Group**	799¾	-3⅜	...	20.3
24	16	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
408⅜	234⅜	RWS Hldgs♦	234⅜	-5	...	21.5
440	365	Science Group♦‡	405	+5	...	18.6
188¼	143⅞	Serco‡	143⅞	-1⅝	...	5.8
57½	27½	Smiths News	53	...	...	5.1
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2920	-46	...	13.3
50	32½	Staffline Gp♦	35⅞	-1	...	27.6
484½	317½	SThree‡	375	-7	...	12.1
137½	95	Synectics♦	107½	...	...	...
29⅜	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	25	...	...	-9.0
94	35	Tribal♦	38⅞	...	...	12.1
86	49	Vianet♦	75½	-1	...	...
950	615	Vp	630	-20	...	15.5
2⅜	1	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.4

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
162⅝	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	118⅞	+⅜	...	34.9

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
81¼	37⅞	AO World	63¾	-1¼	...	...
503⅛	295½	**B&M European**	471⅞	+9⅞	...	10.9
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	28	+1	...	8.2
112½	40⅜	Card Factory	90¾	-1¾	...	...
2192	1549	CVS Group♦	2108	+12	...	59.0
194	104¾	DFS Furn	117	-3	...	6.2
1275	670½	Dunelm	1112	+10	...	14.9
949½	600	**Frasers Group**	690	+18	...	30.6
2904	1673	Greggs	2668	-4	...	23.3
229⅜	124⅝	Halfords	202¾	+2⅛	...	6.7
743½	480⅞	Howden Joinery	667⅜	+3¾	...	12.5
941	666	Inchcape‡	772	+6	...	26.0
4¼	1⅝	IQ-AI	2½	...	...	-7.2
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	153⅜	+2⅜	...	18.5
291½	203	**Kingfisher**‡	234	+2¾	...	5.8
94¼	61½	Lookers‡	81¼	-2¼	...	5.2
184¾	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	181	+1½	...	...
11⅛	5¾	Mothercare♦	5⅞	...	...	-3.7
371	75½	Naked Wines♦	107	+2	...	...
7076	4383	**Next**	6380	-20	...	12.1
952½	391⅞	**Ocado**	391⅞	-15	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	17⅝	...	...	5.5
395	257¾	Pets at Home	376⅜	+18½	...	15.3
227⅜	72⅞	Saga	114⅜	+3	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	271½	-3½	...	22.8
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1528	+6	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	23	...	...	...
1½	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	-2½	...	2.4
142	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**‡	262⅛	-1½	...	13.3
53½	38	Topps Tiles	53½	-½	...	9.6

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
108	62½	Access Intell♦	76½	...	...	...
136½	17¼	Aferian plc♦	17¼	-¼	...	3.1
185	126	Alfa Financial‡	160½	+1½	...	25.1
20¼	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+3⅛	...	-1.2
430	321	Aptitude Software‡	330	+20	...	37.0
265	126½	Bango♦	214	+4	...	...
42½	21	BATM Adv Coms	24	-1	...	10.0
26½	14¼	Berkeley Res	24½	+3¼	...	...
21½	6	Blackbird♦	6	...	...	-9.5
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.5
2624	1810	Computacenter	2342	+2	...	14.5
90½	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	66	-1	...	15.6
12¼	5¾	Corero♦	6¼	-⅛	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1320	-10	...	60.2
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2⅝	...	...	18.0
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	16⅛	...	...	...
276½	181½	D4t4 Solutions♦	181½	-1	...	21.5
⅛	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
22½	13	Dillistone Group♦	19½	...	...	-5.6
¾	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.2
976	599	FDM Group	674	+6	...	23.4
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	13	...	...	35.1
2300	1230	First Derivts♦	1804	-34	...	...
647	281½	GB Group♦	295	+7	...	22.5
180½	136	GreshamTech	153	...	...	...
91	24¼	Ilika♦	45½	+⅞	...	...
132½	79½	Ingenta♦	104½	-1	...	61.1
77	38	Intercede♦	52	-½	...	17.9
200	112	Iomart♦	154¾	-⅛	...	17.0
59⅞	20¾	IQE♦	22¾	-⅝	...	...
152½	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	125	+3½	...	-2.1
1686¼	1053⅞	LG Electronics	1611½	+161⅛	...	4.2
¼	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.9
532	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	532	+½	...	-5.6
70½	45	MTI Wireless♦	48	-1½	...	15.9
55¾	17¼	Nanoco Gp	18	-⅛	...	...
116½	62½	Netcall♦	116½	+6	...	...
51½	35	Northamber♦	38	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	13½	...	...	-7.1
112½	78½	Oxford Metrics♦	92	...	...	40.0
9	4½	Parity♦	4¾	...	...	-7.0
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	37	...	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	602½	-7	...	6.3
394⅛	322	QinetiQ	360	-10⅜	...	28.1
146	20½	RM	88⅛	...	...	17.6
865	595½	**Sage**	856¾	-½	...	32.8
8¼	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	5⅝	...	...	...
139	50	Shearwater Grp♦	60½	...	...	37.4
63	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	43½	...	...	-4.5
1441	1071	Softcat	1351	+26	...	26.4
286⅛	168	Spirent Comms	179½	-⅜	...	16.7
60	24¾	SRT Marine♦	60	+5½	...	...
610	400¾	Tele. Ericsson	422	-½	...	7.7
102½	72½	Touchstar♦	97½	...	...	...
1047½	860	Tracsis♦	935	...	...	...
20½	12¼	Trakm8♦	16	...	...	...
160	81	Triad Grp	155	+5	...	17.0
1380	250	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
916	415	Water Intel♦	445	...	...	24.4
236	144½	Xaar	176½	+3½	...	...
7¾	⅛	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
207½	101½	Zoo Digital♦	131½	-3½	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
170⅞	104½	**Airtel Africa**	119⅜	+½	...	10.6
196½	112	**BT Group**	145⅞	+1¾	...	14.1
87⅝	50⅞	Currys plc	50⅞	...	...	2.4
1210	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1154	-32	...	20.9
144¼	90	Helios Towers	90	-1	...	-8.1
2215½	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1292	-41	...	-2.7
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.4
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅝	...	...	-9.7
2500	1540	Telecom Plus	1540	-8	...	39.4
131⅜	77¾	**Vodafone**	77¾	-1⅝	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	234	Braemar Ship	285	-7	...	9.4
535⅛	285	EasyJet	477½	-7⅞	...	-3.0
10⅞	4½	Esken Limited	5	...	...	-0.2
139½	93½	FirstGroup	115½	+2⅜	...	27.5
407	251	Fisher (James)	368	-2½	...	-6.6
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	157	+⅜	...	-3.4
328⅞	183½	IDS	199	-¼	...	2.2
439¼	310¾	Irish Cont Uts‡	404	...	...	...
...	...	Jet2♦	1202	+9	...	-6.4
272½	105⅝	Natl Express	105⅝	-2½	...	-6.2
1050	820	Ocean Wilson‡	830	-8	...	4.2
105	104¼	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	20½	...	...	...
404½	192⅜	Wincanton	243½	+2½	...	6.6
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	2852	-31	...	-6.4

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
119⅞	67¼	**Centrica**	119⅞	+1½	...	12.1
258	248½	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
793	473⅜	Drax Group	589¾	+3	...	43.6
582½	457	Jersey Electricity	477	...	...	9.0
1186½	858⅜	**National Grid**	1100	+10½	...	25.6
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8½	...	...	5.5
1070	755	Pennon	779½	+4½	...	56.4
⅝	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
3003	2213	**Severn Trent**	2757	+31	...	...
1900	1428	**SSE**	1858½	+25	...	7.2
1145	828⅛	**United Utilities**	1010½	+6	...	92.7

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Guitarist and singer for Earth, Wind & Fire
Sheldon Reynolds
Page 48

Obituaries

Helmut Berger

Troubled Austrian film actor known for his collaborations with Luchino Visconti and for being ‘the best-looking man in the world’

It may be harder than it seems to be the best-looking man in the world. Helmut Berger, the Austrian actor to whom the press regularly accorded that status in the 1970s, certainly gave the impression it was so.

Over a decade, he transcribed the classic self-destructive arc through the rarefied air of the jet set. For every film premiere, Vogue cover shot or holiday on the yacht of the Greek plutocrat Stavros Niarchos, there was a run-in with the law, a struggle with inner demons and an impromptu departure over the taffrail, preceded into the Aegean by his suitcases. Those cheekbones notwithstanding, it was that kind of life.

Berger was chiefly associated with Luchino Visconti, the Italian director of films such as *The Leopard* who became both his mentor and lover. By Berger's not always reliable account, they met in Assisi in 1964, where Visconti was making *Sandra*. The director noticed the blue-eyed language student and aspiring actor, then aged 20, sitting in a pizzeria. Visconti lent him a scarf as he seemed cold and invited him to lunch.

Soon they were living together in Paris, on the Italian island of Ischia, and at Visconti's villa on the Via Salaria, Rome, where Berger's predecessors had included Franco Zeffirelli. Despite his radical leanings, and an oeuvre shot through with commentary on class hypocrisy, Visconti, himself an aristocrat, tried to keep their relationship a secret, not least from his servants.

Then almost 40 years Berger's senior, he became the younger man's father figure. He educated him about art and taught him English. In return, Berger, who craved the companionship of his contemporaries and snuck out to nightclubs when Visconti was asleep, introduced him to the likes of the Beatles.

Visconti had a vision of the group collaborating with the conductor Leonard Bernstein. When the quartet came to dinner, however, he complained about the length of their hair and forbade Berger to grow his.

As in many relationships, there were bouts of jealousy between them, as well as scenes in public. One occurred when Berger tried on everything in a clothes shop in Greece and the owner commented to Visconti that parents needed patience with their children.

Even so, Visconti's infatuation did not abate and he cast Berger in prominent roles in several of his films, starting with *The Witches* (1967). He was next seen — sensationally — making his entrance in *The Damned* (1969) for which he dressed up in the androgynous top hat and stockings style of Marlene Dietrich in *The Blue Angel*.

Loosely based on the history of the Krupp dynasty, the film depicts a family of German industrialists tied to the Nazis. Berger was the homosexual heir, Martin von Essenbeck, whose emotional turmoil culminates in the rape of his mother and the forced suicide of her lover, played by Dirk Bogarde. “Except for Helmut Berger, there are no interesting women today,” quipped Billy Wilder about the actor's performance. Nevertheless, he was nominated for a Golden Globe and Visconti for an Oscar for the script. Dietrich, meanwhile, sent Berger a photograph of herself with her compliments and the inscription: “Who's prettier?”

Disdaining the risk of self-parody, Berger was next seen in *Dorian Gray* (1970), set in louche contemporary London. Much more substantial was Vittorio De Sica's adaptation of *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* (1970), about a well-to-do Jewish family in Fascist-era Ferrara. Berger was notably convincing as the ailing son whose fragility mirrors that of the Edenic existence soon to be destroyed.

Berger described his next film as “the role of his life”. *Ludwig* (1973), which with *Death in Venice* (1971) completed Visconti's “German trilogy”, portrayed lavishly the architectural and sexual excesses of the “mad king” of Bavaria who was Richard Wagner's patron. Some critics felt the director's lens lingered too long on his leading man — the film lasts three hours — but Berger was awarded Italy's equivalent of a Bafta, the David di Donatello.

He was now regarded as a rising star of European cinema, but his subsequent films exposed his limited range. They included *Ash Wednesday* (1973), with Elizabeth Taylor as a woman rejuvenated by cosmetic surgery. Berger and the actress's husband, then Richard Burton again, did not get along. The Austrian liked to tell how he had pranked the star of *Where Eagles Dare* by getting him to sit in white trousers on a sofa that Berger had smeared with chocolate truffles.

His last film for Visconti was *Conversation Piece* (1974), widely regarded as a study of their relationship, with Burt Lancaster in the role of the older man. By then, however, the director, who smoked 120 cigarettes a day, had had a stroke and had moved in with his sister.

He was also livid that Berger had fallen into the clutches of cocaine. This further exacerbated his protégé's lack of inhibition, promiscuity and oscillation between what he called the angelic and diabolic sides of his personality.

Berger's last role of note came in Tinto Brass's blatantly exploitative *Salon Kitty* (1976), based on the Berlin brothel run by the Nazis for the purposes of gathering intelligence. Visconti's death that year sent Berger still further off the rails, especially after he discovered he had been left nothing in the will.

A year later, he attempted suicide by taking an overdose. Friends intervened, but ever afterwards he would define himself as having been “widowed at 32”.

He was born Helmut Steinberger in 1944 at Bad Ischl, near Salzburg, Austria. His parents ran a hotel, but his father, Fritz, was then a prisoner of war in Russia. He did not meet his son until he was three and thereafter their relationship was difficult.

Berger claimed that his father would beat him. He did not find school more congenial and was expelled from several for bad behaviour and lack of concentration. (These days the traits he displayed might invite a diagnosis of neurodivergence.)

At 18, unwilling to work for his parents, he stole money from his mother and made his way to London. He was thrown out of the Central School of Speech and Drama for oversleeping but found work in a restaurant on the Kings Road, Chelsea. There he came to know stars such as Cat Stevens and, after discovering marijuana, participated in hedonistic orgies.

Much of his réclame depended on his well-publicised dalliances with famous lovers of both sexes. Among these were Rudolf Nureyev, although the dancer's love of garlic and vodka repelled him, Ursula Andress and Britt Ekland, to whom he proposed marriage after her divorce from Rod Stewart.

His other paramours included, he said, the film stars Linda Blair and Nathalie Delon, and Anita Pallenberg. He liked to recount how he had slept with both Bianca and Mick Jagger, but only in the platonic sense. Berger had a much longer relationship with the actress Marisa Berenson. In 1970, he became the first man to appear on the cover of Vogue when photographed with her by David Bailey. He was also immortalised by Helmut Newton and Andy Warhol.

Short of money, Berger appeared in 1983 in nine episodes of the soap *Dynasty*, as a drug-addled playboy. Although he remained an inspiration to Madonna, featuring in 1992 in her book *Sex*, thereafter he was little seen on the screen for two decades. For much of that time, Berger was caring for his mother, Hedwig, and battling his addictions to alcohol and drugs, which he said he resorted to in an attempt to overcome acute shyness.

He also had obsessive-compulsive tendencies, taking days to pack suitcases without creasing his clothes.

He had a small role in *The Godfather Part III* (1990) and in 2014 was seen as the elderly Yves Saint Laurent in a drama about the designer. He published a memoir in German, *Ich*, in 1998, and in 2015 appeared in a sexually graphic, rather Swiftian documentary about his life.

Berger's time with Visconti fired extravagant tendencies that never faded. Thinking a boathouse the height of desirability, he had one built but never bought a boat to put in it. At one stage, his assets included a chalet in Kitzbühel which he sold to Franz Beckenbauer.

Yet he lost many of his possessions, supposedly including paintings by Chagall and Picasso, in 1992 in a fire in Rome caused by a cigarette. Berger said he had not been paid much of what he had been promised for his film roles and by 2010 claimed his only income was his monthly state pension of €200.

This was disputed by his estranged wife, Francesca Guidato, a writer whom he had married in 1994. The guests were kept waiting for two and a quarter hours while the groom made his confession.

The marriage was stormy, and though he helped to raise a stepdaughter, Salome, he and his wife had been separated for many years. In 2015, she denounced him for bigamy with a younger man, but the accusation proved untrue and the relationship in any event ended soon after.

“You know, I like myself,” reflected Berger. “I am what I am. Take me or leave me.”

“I have lived three lives. And in four languages. Je ne regrette rien.”

Helmut Berger, film actor, was born on May 29, 1944. He died on May 18, 2023, aged 78

ANGELO DELIGIO/MONDADORI VIA GETTY IMAGES



Berger in Sicily in 1973. He was the first man to appear on the cover of Vogue, and much of his fame was derived from well-publicised dalliances with various stars of both sexes

Register

Vic Bashford

Resilient airman who sailed on the first Arctic convoy in 1941 and helped to establish a force of Hurricane fighters in Russia

When Corporal Vic Bashford left the port of Liverpool on a former luxury liner, the Llanstephan Castle, on August 12, 1941, the young airman had no inkling of the ship's destination.

He had just left RAF Leconfield in Yorkshire, where two squadrons of Hawker Hurricane fighters were prepared for service overseas under the leadership of Wing Commander Neville Ramsbottom-Isherwood, a New Zealander. They were known as 151 Wing and codenamed "Force Benedict".

A highly trained electrician responsible for helping to maintain the fighters, Bashford had been issued with a uniform usually associated with desert warfare while the Hurricanes under his care were equipped with sand filters.

As it turned out, it was all a ruse to disguise their true destination — and to protect one of the most secret operations of the Second World War at that time. It was only when the British airmen were invited to attend lessons in Russian as their convoy assembled off Iceland that they learnt the true nature of their mission.

Bashford's ship was one of six merchantmen accompanied by a relay of escorts that sailed to Archangel with a cargo of 15 Hurricanes packed in crates. Called Operation Dervish, the mission was the first of the Arctic convoys that helped to fulfil Winston Churchill's pledge to aid the Russian war effort just weeks after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

Bashford was among the ground crews attached to Force Benedict, which succeeded in protecting Murmansk, Russia's only ice-free port with access to the Atlantic, in the autumn of 1941.

The 15 Hurricanes carried by the convoy were reassembled in Archangel and flown to an airfield at Vaenga, now known as Severomorsk. A further 24 were flown to the new base from the aircraft carrier HMS Argus.

In five weeks, the British fighters destroyed 16 German aircraft, with four "probables" and a further seven damaged. One Hurricane was lost in action. Two ground crew were killed. Four British airmen were awarded the Order of Lenin.

The British force also trained the Russians to operate and service the Hurricanes, which were the first of more than 3,000 delivered to the Soviet Union during the war.

While Bashford was not allowed to mix freely with civilians, he got on well with his Soviet counterparts. "My dealings with the Russians were very close,

At Boulogne he escaped the German advance by swimming out to sea

with the pilots and the ground crew, who were top notch," said Bashford. "They really needed very little instruction … it was a pleasure to work with them."

He recalled arriving in Archangel on August 31, 1941, and later being taken across the White Sea in a British destroyer to the airfield at Vaenga, which was often bombed.

"I was with our squadron's advance party of fitters and riggers," Bashford said. "Our activity at Vaenga was successful in every respect so we could feel that we had done what we'd been tasked to do when we left, leaving the Russians with a nucleus of a Hurricane force."

Bashford left northern Russia at the



Bashford received awards from Russia

end of November 1941 on the cruiser HMS Kenya, which attacked German positions in Norway en route to Britain. "We spent some exhilarating moments bombarding the German coastal installations at Vardo," said Bashford. "Never a dull moment!"

Frederick Victor Bashford, later known as Vic, was born in Portsmouth in 1920, the eldest child of Frederick and Gertrude Bashford. He had two sisters. His father, who served in submarines during the First World War, ran an electrical business.

The family eventually moved to Surrey where Victor was expected to win a place at Reigate Grammar School. He was put in quarantine, however, before he could take the entrance exam because his sister was thought to have contracted diphtheria. It was a false alarm, but halted Victor's ambitions.

He left school at 14 and became an apprentice electrician with a local company. On a works outing to Margate in 1938, Bashford met a group of airmen from Manston, who made a big impression on him. Shortly afterwards, he joined the RAF.

After completing his training in 1939, he was posted to France with 615 Squadron. On May 10, 1940, their airfield at Abbeville was bombed by the Germans. The sounds of Stuka dive-bombers haunted him for the rest of his life.

As the British retreated to the French coast in the face of the German advance that summer, Bashford escaped from the beaches at Boulogne by swimming out to sea. He was picked up by a small boat and taken back to Britain on a paddle steamer. He rejoined 615 Squadron at Kenley and served with the unit throughout the Battle of Britain. He was posted to north Africa after returning from Russia and was demobilised in late 1945.

Bashford then worked for the family business and met Margaret Hurley, a vivacious young woman, at a dance. The couple were married in the summer of 1946 and had a son and two daughters. Margaret died in 2010 after 64 years of marriage. His children survive him.

He joined the London Brick Company as a maintenance engineer and was a company manager for many years before retiring in 1982. He was regarded by many as a firm but fair man who expected high standards of behaviour, kept his emotions in check and held robust views. He enjoyed golf and cricket and became a high-ranking mason.

After the end of the Cold War in 1991, the Russian authorities made efforts to recognise the British veterans who had been part of Force Benedict and served on the 78 Arctic convoys that sailed between Britain and the Soviet Union.

Bashford, the last survivor of Force Benedict, was given a number of awards, including the Ushakov medal for gallantry, by the Russian authorities and visited the country several times. In 2016, he returned to Archangel to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Operation Dervish. He was overwhelmed by the reception.

The British government finally recognised the contribution of those who served on the Arctic convoys — more than 100 ships were lost with 3,000 casualties — when it instituted a campaign medal, the Arctic Star, in December 2012. Bashford received his medal in 2013.

According to his daughter Cylla , who is a former assistant head teacher: "Dad was very proud of his RAF days and not very impressed with the political approach to historical events by the British government, particularly the slow response to the recognition of service in several areas of the war. He felt that the politicians were bounced into it because the Russian government were much more appreciative.

Indeed, she was "a little anxious" as she accompanied her father to Downing Street and watched as he received his Arctic Star from the prime minister, David Cameron. "Fortunately, Dad was too well mannered to say anything," she said, with some relief.

Vic Bashford, RAF ground crew, engineer and company manager, was born on December 28, 1920. He died on April 18, 2023, aged 102

Sheldon Reynolds

Flamboyant guitarist and vocalist who left the Commodores to join Earth, Wind & Fire and was mobbed by fans at his debut gig

When not playing guitar with some of the biggest names in black music, Sheldon Reynolds was a contributing editor to the magazine Astronomy and his consuming passion was gazing at the skies through his telescope and photographing the stars and planets.

Perhaps his interest in the extraterrestrial was piqued by the years he spent playing with Earth, Wind & Fire, the funk band whose flamboyant, sci-fi-themed live shows were described by one critic as "Disneyland-on-Mars" and involved the group arriving on stage in a spaceship.

As a member of the group that he had revered since his early teens, Reynolds never stopped pinching himself, not quite able to believe that his heroes had become his bandmates. "If I'd only been able to play with them for one day that would have been enough," he said. "But I stayed for 14 years."

He joined the band as lead guitarist and co-vocalist in 1987, after taking a bus across Los Angeles two years earlier to the studio owned by the group's leader and founder Maurice White to give him a demo tape. "He wasn't there but I met his sister and left my tapes with her," he recalled.

At the time, Reynolds was playing and singing with the Commodores and Earth, Wind & Fire were on hiatus, White having broken up the previous line-up in 1984.

A week later Reynolds was in the studio recording with the Commodores when a burgundy-coloured Porsche pulled up in the drive. It was White, who had been impressed with Reynolds' tapes and said he would call him about

HOWARD DENNER/AVALON



Reynolds at the Royal Albert Hall in 1998

working together.

However, Reynolds heard no more, not least because he had failed to pay his phone bill and the line had been cut off. He eventually got a message via his mother that White was trying to contact him, and called him back from a public phone booth.

By the end of the call he had been invited to play on White's self-titled solo album. Two years later White reformed Earth, Wind & Fire and invited Reynolds to join the new line-up.

The most commercially successful African-American group of the 1970s, the band had already changed the sound of black pop music with a dazzling mix of R'n'B, soul, funk, jazz, disco, pop and rock on irresistible million-selling hit singles such as *Shining Star*, *September*, *Boogie Wonderland* and *Let's Groove*.

Over its different incarnations the group went on to sell more than 90 million records and Reynolds played a key role on their 1987 reunion album *Touch the World*, which restored them to the top of the charts.

Touring the world with the band, he played his first gig outside America in Paris, where fans mobbed the stage. "I couldn't believe it was happening," he said. "It was like Beatlemania."

He went on to play on the albums *Heritage* (1990), *Millennium* (1993) and *In the Name of Love* (1997) and wrote the 1993 hit single *Sunday Morning* which was nominated for a Grammy award as best R'n'B vocal performance by a duo or group.

He left in 2001 after White was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and the group's work rate slowed.

That same year he married Janie Hendrix, half-sister of the late Jimi Hendrix, and helped her to run Experience Hendrix LLC, the company that administers the late guitarist's multimillion dollar estate. The marriage ended in divorce in 2007.

In 2015, his ex-wife sued him for the alleged theft of a Black Widow guitar once owned and played by Hendrix. Valued at $750,000, she claimed that it was only realised the guitar was missing when it was put up for sale and the auction house approached the estate to verify its authenticity. Reynolds insisted that the guitar had been given to him as part of the divorce settlement and the case over its disputed ownership dragged on for years.

Sheldon Maurice Reynolds was born in 1959 in Cincinnati, Ohio, into a large family that turned out to be even larger than he thought. The first time he played in his hometown with Earth, Wind & Fire "about 50 people turned up at the stage door saying they were my cousin". White permitted them to come in but told Reynolds "next time we come to Cincinnati, you make sure all your homies pay".

His mother was an amateur pianist and singer and Philippé Wynne of the Detroit Spinners was a genuine cousin. Encouraged to play music from an early age, he was given his first guitar when he was six.

When he was 11 he saw the Jackson Five on television and knew what he wanted to do with his life. "That was it. I was sold. I wanted to make it the Jackson Six," he said.

At high school he formed a group called Blue Atmosphere, which won a local talent show and supported Millie Jackson. He briefly attended the University of Cincinnati but dropped out to join the funk band Sun, graduating to the Commodores in 1983 in a restructured line-up following the departures of Lionel Richie for a solo career and the group's original guitarist Thomas McClary.

In later years he ran his own band, Elements of Fire, which was in effect a tribute act to the tumultuous years he had spent scoring hit after hit with Earth, Wind & Fire.

Sheldon Reynolds, guitarist, was born on September 13, 1959. He died of undisclosed causes on May 23, 2023, aged 63

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Jack Crossley

Journalist who compiled books from the most amusing anecdotes reported in the press

Jack Crossley collected many of those "strange but true" stories that pepper the pages of newspapers. In *You Couldn't Make It Up* (2003) he told of the mafia hitman whose court defence was, "It wasn't me, that night I was killing someone else"; the woman who declined a dating agency's suggestion because the man on offer was her former husband; and the letter that read: "Sir, While clearing the house of a deceased aunt we found a box labelled, correctly, 'Pieces of string too short to keep'."

It made an ideal stocking filler and readers began sending in submissions for sequels, including *You Absolutely Couldn't Make it Up* (2005). This told how staff at Battersea dogs' home were baffled when night after night a group of dogs escaped from their pens for midnight feasts, until CCTV revealed that one of them, a lurcher, had learnt to unbolt his pen with his teeth and went round freeing the others. Another book, *Barmy Britain* (2008), featured the Guardian headline "Man with false leg hit with toilet lid" and an announcement from Astrological magazine that "it is to cease due to unforeseen circumstances".

During his long career as a journalist, Crossley was not only the curator of entertaining anecdotes he also wrote many of them, not least in The Times, one of several newspapers where he employed or was employed by Charles Wilson (obituary, September 1, 2022). Nevertheless, he was a self-proclaimed "hard news man of the old school", producing countless investigations and stories for this paper including the effect of rising house prices on the young, doubts over the jury system in court, and the risk to hundreds of historic buildings that enjoyed crown immunity from prosecution under fire protection laws.



A typewriter man, Crossley did not take kindly to laptop computers

He regularly woke before 6am and spent several hours scanning rival papers and listening to the radio to create lists of possible stories that could be presented as fresh ideas at the mid-morning daily news conference. Even in retirement he supplied daily lists to colleagues in the business.

Like many of his vintage, Crossley struggled with technology. After 30 years using an old Imperial portable typewriter

His office tracked him down when he ordered a particular drink at a pub

that "didn't byte back" he graduated to a laptop computer. He told how it came with "an irritating demonic paperclip called the Office Assistant that, for some reason, appeared riding a motorcycle. It asks, 'What would you like to do?' I'd like to strangle it."

Jack Crossley was born in the mining village of Carlton, South Yorkshire, in 1929, the younger of two sons of Tom Crossley, who was involved in a serious mining accident when Jack was three, and his wife Jessie (née Cockayne), who was determined that her sons would not go down the pit. His brother, George, emigrated to Australia and died some years ago.

Crossley left school at 14 to become a copy boy on the Yorkshire Evening News. "I had my share of covering chip-pan fires and of collecting mourners' names at Leeds Parish Church funerals," he recalled. His rivals on the Yorkshire Evening Post included the future actor Peter O'Toole and the future novelist Barbara Taylor Bradford, as well as Keith Waterhouse with whom he later shared meals featuring Yorkshire puddings in Chelsea pubs.

He moved to the Daily Dispatch in Manchester, then spent six months at the Daily Mail's northern office, where his night news editor "relentlessly demanded speed, accuracy and clarity … while at the same time oozing infectious enthusiasm".

He then escaped to the US, crossing the continent on a Greyhound bus before landing a post on the east coast with The Patriot Ledger in Quincy, Massachusetts. In 1952 he had married Rita Coulson, a copy typist, and when she was pregnant they returned to Britain. He is survived by their sons: Gary, who helped on his father's books and now runs a pub; Andy, who leads a private life; and Dan, a builder and carpenter.

Crossley joined the Daily Mail's London office, where he honed his investigative skills and worked his way up to news editor. He then moved on to "two crazy months" with the National Enquirer in Florida and a stint at the Glasgow Herald with Wilson. By then his first marriage had been dissolved and in 1987 he married Kate Owen, whom he taught to play snooker and pool in the city's pubs and who survives him.

After a brief time at The Observer he was lured back to Scotland by Wilson, who needed a deputy at the Sunday Standard, a new Scottish broadsheet. Wilson soon moved on, while Crossley stayed until the title closed in 1983. From there he became head of news at the Daily Express before joining The Times. He retired in 1994, though he contributed to the sports pages for another decade.

Latterly he and Kate lived by the river at Shiplake, near Henley-on-Thames.

A wiry and energetic figure with a distinctive voice, Crossley enjoyed sea fishing from Polperro harbour in Cornwall. On one occasion he went into the village's Three Pilchards pub and ordered his usual tipple, a whisky with two ice cubes. The bartender immediately told him to call the office which, needing to speak to him in those pre-mobile phone days, had rung every pub in the town to put them on alert for a customer who placed that order.

Jack Crossley, journalist, was born on March 21, 1929. He died on May 22, 2023, aged 94

Court Circular

Buckingham Palace
30th May, 2023

The King this morning presented Honours at Windsor Castle to the Crew of the State Gun Carriage of the Royal Navy at the State Funeral of The late Queen Elizabeth II.

Admiral Sir Benjamin Key (First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff) was present.

The Hon Nicolas Bramall was received by The King this afternoon and delivered up the Insignia of the Order of the Garter worn by his father, the late Field Marshal the Lord Bramall.

The Hon Mrs Nicolas Bramall was also received by His Majesty.

The Hon Mrs Barnes-Yallowley and the Hon Verity Inge were received by The King and delivered up the Insignia of the Order of the Garter worn by their father, the late Field Marshal the Lord Inge.

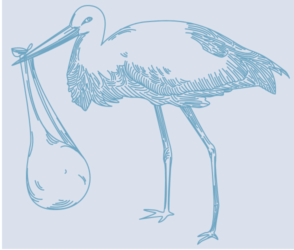
The Very Reverend Dr David Ison was received by The King this afternoon when His Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order upon relinquishing his appointment as Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, and Dean of the Order of St Michael and St George and Dean of the Order of the British Empire.

Surgeon Captain David Anthony Hett RN was received by The King upon relinquishing his appointment as Medical Officer to Queen Elizabeth II Abroad, and Tour Doctor to The King, when His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

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HOWARD KENNEDY PRIVATE LIMITED
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Malcolm Cohen and Matthew Chadwick of BDO LLP, 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 7EU were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Company on 11 May 2023. Creditors of the Company are required, on or before the 27 June 2023 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Joint Liquidators, and, if so required by notice, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice.

Note: Please note that this is a solvent liquidation. The directors of the Company have made a declaration of solvency and it is expected that all creditors will be paid in full. Further details contact: Pauline Durrant, Tel: +44 (0)20 7486 5888, Email: Pauline.Durrant@bdo.co.uk,

Reference: 00426076

Malcolm Cohen, Joint Liquidator

CR-2023-001252
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES COMPANIES COURT (Ch D)
IN THE MATTER OF HARGREAVE HALE AIM VCT PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice Chancery Division dated 9 May 2023 confirming the cancellation of the amount standing to the credit of the share premium account of Hargreave Hale AIM VCT plc (the "Company") resolved on and effected by a special resolution passed at a general meeting of the Company held on 7 October 2022 and the statement of capital approved by the Court were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 18 May 2023.

Dated the 31st day of May 2023
Howard Kennedy LLP
No. 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG
Solicitors for the Company

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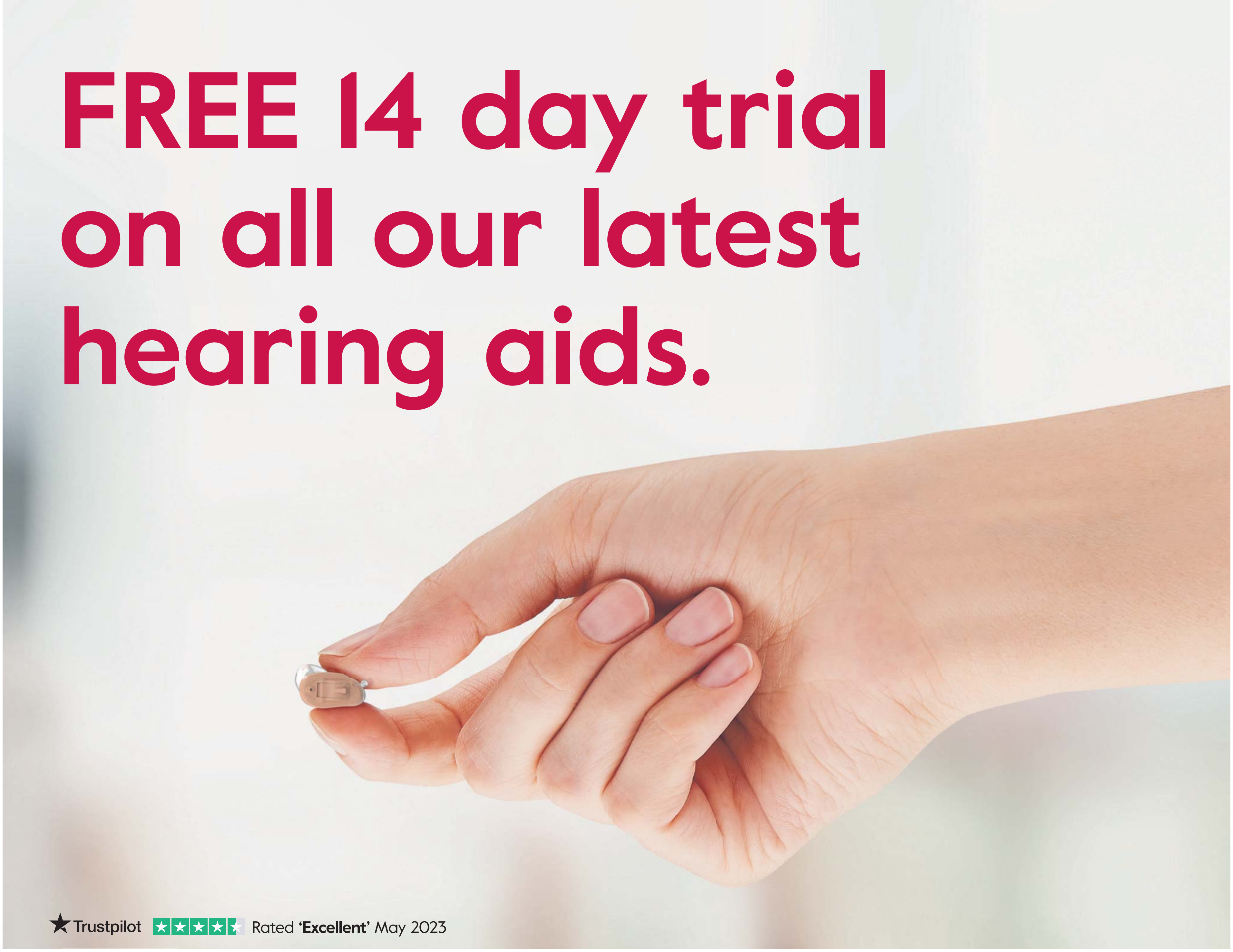
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On board, try a French cooking class, or relax in the on board Salt Therapy Lounge++. Later, arrive in Saint-Émilion to take in all its beauty as well as explore the underground catacombs of the Monolithic Church (B, L, D)

Day 3 **Libourne – Paulliac, France ★Wine Tasting★**
Enjoy a guided tour of Libourne. Alternatively, explore the exclusive estate of Château Siaurac with a wine tasting, or view the eclectic city of Bergerac (B, L, D)

Day 4 **Médoc, France ★Wine Tasting★**
Travel the scenic Médoc wine route and sample the region's finest at a local estate, or cycle to a local Château for a wine tasting

★Scenic Enrich×: Soak in the ambiance of Château d'Agassac as live musicians perform classical masterpieces, exclusive to guests (B, L, D)

Day 5 **Pauillac – Cadillac, France**
Today, cruise the Garonne River into Cadillac. Tonight, local entertainers perform live for your exclusive enjoyment (B, L, D)

Day 6 **Cadillac, France ★Wine Tasting★**
Venture into the Sauternes region for a delicious wine tasting at the prestigious Château de Rayne Vigneau, or cycle through Sauternes to the Grand Cru Classé estate of Lafaurie Peyraguey for a tasting. Visit Roquetaillade Castle, alternatively, visit a truffle farm or perhaps visit Château Malromé, the family home of well known artist, Toulouse Lautrec (B, L, D)

Day 7 **Bordeaux, France**
Shop with a Chef at a local food market or enjoy a guided tour of Bordeaux, or if you're feeling more active, you may choose to cycle the historic regions of the city. Back on board, enjoy a tasting of fresh oysters delivered straight from the waters of Arcachon Bay

★Scenic Enrich×: During exclusive after-hours access be welcomed with a glass of Champagne as you visit Les Bassins de Lumières, Bordeaux's former submarine base which has been transformed into an impressive digital art installation (B, L, D)

Day 8 **Arcachon – Bourg, France**
Journey to Arcachon and join a walking tour including a visit to the local markets, or stay in Bordeaux and take a tram to the Cité du Vin museum. Alternatively, climb Dune du Pilat, Europe's largest sand dune (B, L, D)

Day 9 **Cognac, France**
Discover the Carriages Museum in the enchanting Bourg Castle, or spend a full day exploring Cognac. **Afterwards, enjoy a tasting at the acclaimed property of Rémy Martin** (B, L, D)

Day 10 **Blaye – Bordeaux, France**
Enjoy a guided walking tour, or take a more active walk through the Citadel of Blaye. Or, explore the stunning beauty of the fairytale Château de La Roche Courbon on a guided tour. Alternatively, join a 30km roundtrip cycle along the Captain's Road (B, L, D)

Day 11 **Bordeaux, France**
After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight back to London> (B)

Meals are included as stated: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.
Itinerary is based on 17th August 2023 departure date

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  - Cruise Directors to guide and assist
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Today Mainly dry with long sunny spells in the west and some patchy cloud in the east. Max 23C (73F), min 6C (43F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	14	S	0.0	5.5
Aberporth	15	S	0.0	**
Anglesey	17	S	0.0	1.0
Aviemore	20	S	0.0	**
Barnstaple	17	S	0.0	**
Bedford	13	C	0.0	**
Belfast	18	S	0.0	8.9
Birmingham	13	C	0.0	**
Bournemouth	17	S	0.0	**
Bridlington	14	C	0.0	**
Bristol	16	PC	0.0	4.5
Camborne	16	S	0.0	1.9
Cardiff	16	S	0.0	2.8
Edinburgh	16	S	0.0	**
Eskdalemuir	18	S	0.0	2.5
Glasgow	19	S	0.0	1.0
Hereford	15	S	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	14	B	0.0	3.7
Ipswich	12	C	0.0	3.1
Isle of Man	15	S	0.0	5.6
Isle of Wight	16	S	0.0	**
Jersey	16	S	0.0	6.8
Keswick	19	S	0.0	**
Kinloss	14	S	0.0	1.0
Leeds	12	C	0.0	**
Lerwick	10	C	0.0	0.3
Leuchars	14	S	0.0	**
Lincoln	12	D	0.0	4.3
Liverpool	18	S	0.0	**
London	17	S	0.0	5.9
Lyneham	15	S	0.0	6.9
Manchester	16	PC	0.0	3.0
Margate	13	C	0.0	9.9
Milford Haven	18	S	0.0	**
Newcastle	14	C	0.0	**
Nottingham	12	C	0.0	2.8
Orkney	12	C	0.2	4.2
Oxford	16	S	0.0	**
Plymouth	17	S	0.0	**
Portland	16	S	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	15	B	0.0	**
Shoreham	15	B	0.0	6.3
Shrewsbury	15	PC	0.0	4.3
Snowdonia	16	S	0.0	**
Southend	13	C	0.0	**
South Uist	13	B	0.0	**
Stornoway	12	C	0.0	0.5
Tiree	14	S	0.0	6.6
Whitehaven	16	S	0.0	2.0
Wick	12	C	0.0	**
Yeovilton	16	S	0.0	1.9

The world

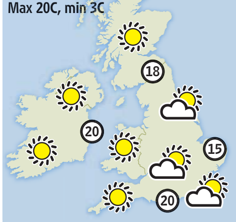
All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	22	PC	Madeira	22	PC
Amsterdam	14	B	Madrid	20	PC
Athens	24	PC	Malaga	26	PC
Auckland	18	B	Mallorca	24	B
Bahrain	37	S	Malta	24	PC
Bangkok	34	PC	Melbourne	17	B
Barbados	31	SH	Mexico City	25	C
Barcelona	22	PC	Miami	30	B
Beijing	24	S	Milan	24	PC
Beirut	24	PC	Mombasa	27	B
Belgrade	23	PC	Montreal	21	PC
Berlin	20	S	Moscow	20	S
Bermuda	25	SH	Mumbai	33	S
Bordeaux	28	S	Munich	21	S
Brussels	17	S	Nairobi	21	B
Bucharest	26	S	Naples	25	T
Budapest	21	B	New Orleans	28	S
Buenos Aires	14	S	New York	22	PC
Cairo	31	PC	Nice	25	PC
Calcutta	35	S	Nicosia	26	PC
Canberra	12	B	Oslo	18	S
Cape Town	14	R	Paris	20	S
Chicago	29	B	Perth	24	B
Copenhagen	18	S	Prague	19	S
Corfu	26	PC	Reykjavik	7	D
Delhi	33	S	Riga	17	S
Dubai	37	S	Rio de Janeiro	22	C
Dublin	16	PC	Riyadh	37	S
Faro	21	PC	Rome	25	S
Florence	28	PC	San Francisco	19	PC
Frankfurt	21	S	Santiago	20	S
Geneva	23	PC	São Paulo	18	B
Gibraltar	26	PC	Seoul	26	B
Helsinki	11	SH	Seychelles	30	PC
Hong Kong	34	PC	Singapore	33	SH
Honolulu	29	PC	St Petersburg	15	PC
Istanbul	23	B	Stockholm	15	S
Jerusalem	28	PC	Sydney	19	S
Johannesburg	17	PC	Tel Aviv	28	PC
Kuala Lumpur	33	PC	Tenerife	24	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	23	PC
Lanzarote	21	PC	Vancouver	17	PC
Las Palmas	25	PC	Venice	26	S
Lima	21	DU	Vienna	22	PC
Lisbon	23	PC	Warsaw	20	S
Los Angeles	19	B	Washington	24	B
Luxor	35	S	Zurich	23	PC

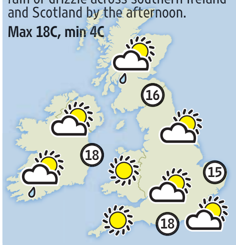
Five days ahead

Remaining mostly dry with hazy spells of sunshine and the odd patch of drizzle at times

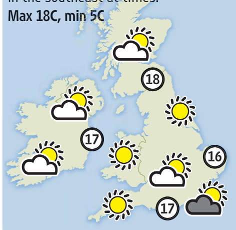
Tomorrow
A dry day with lots of sunshine across Ireland and western Britain. Sunny intervals and some patchy cloud at times in the east.
Max 20C, min 3C



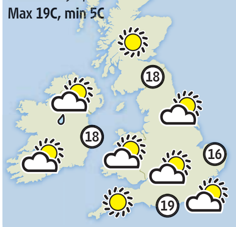
Friday
A largely dry day with sunny intervals and a chance of the odd patch of light rain or drizzle across southern Ireland and Scotland by the afternoon.
Max 18C, min 4C



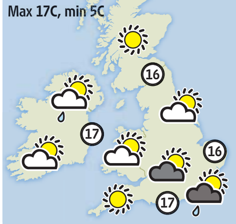
Saturday
Another dry day with the best of the sunshine across southwest Britain and northern England. Some thicker cloud in the southeast at times.
Max 18C, min 5C



Sunday
Bright spells and a few patches of light rain and drizzle across Northern Ireland through the day. Dry elsewhere with sunny spells.
Max 19C, min 5C



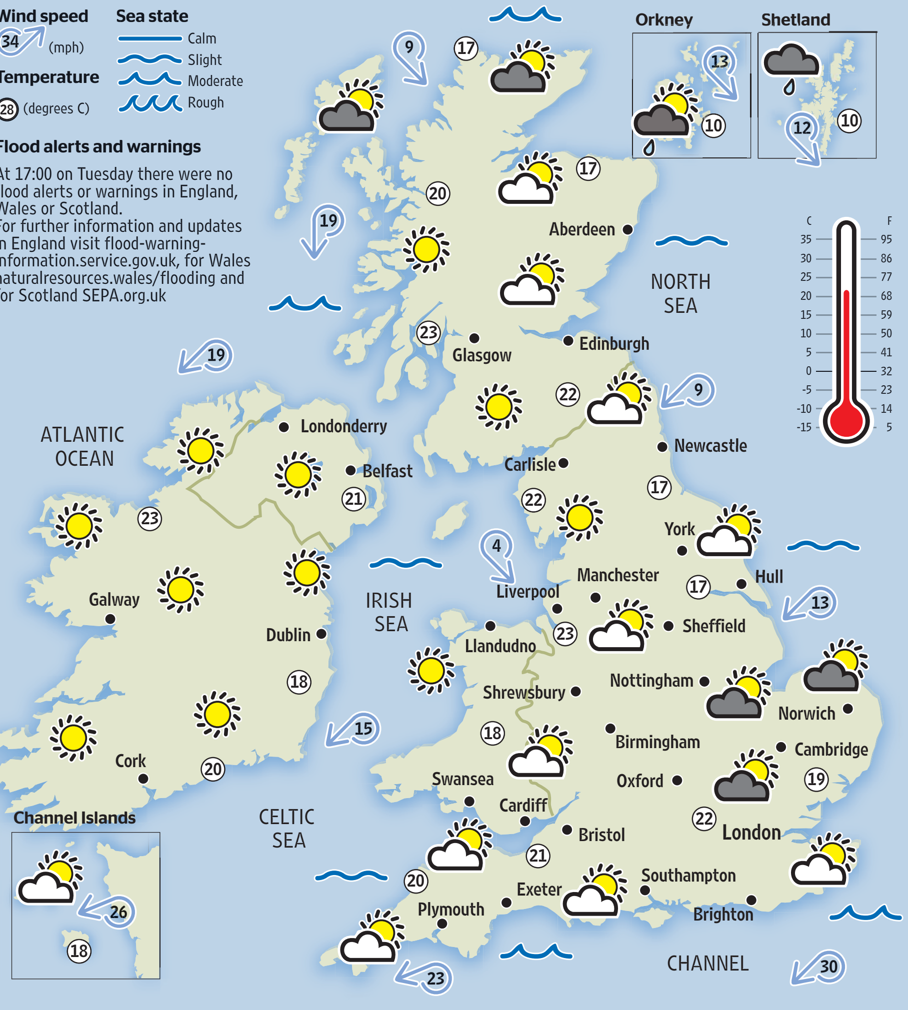
Monday
Patchy cloud and perhaps a little light rain in southeast England and Northern Ireland. Dry elsewhere with the best of the sunshine in Scotland.
Max 17C, min 5C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Tuesday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

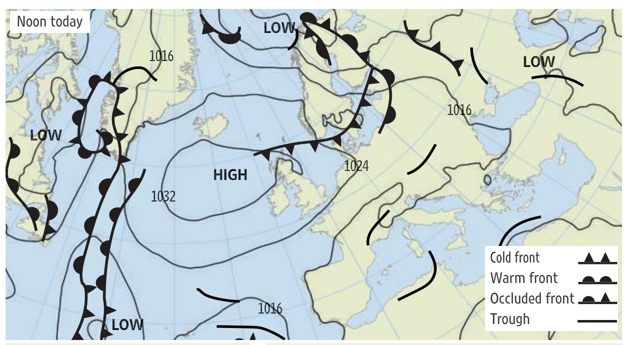


General situation: A dry day with the best of the sunshine across Ireland and western Britain, cloudy in the east.
Cen Highland, Glasgow, SW Scotland, Argyll, Lake District, IoM: A dry day with prolonged spells of sunshine, turning a little hazy by late afternoon. Light and variable winds. Maximum 23C (73F), minimum 6C (43F).
Cen N Eng, NW Eng, Wales, W Mids, Cen S Eng, SW Eng, Channel Is: Dry with any patchy cloud clearing through the morning to leave a warm afternoon with sunny spells. Light to moderate east to northeasterly winds. Maximum 23C (73F), minimum 6C (43F).
Edinburgh and Dundee, NW Scotland, NE Scotland, Moray Firth, Aberdeen, Borders, N Isles, NE Eng: Patchy mist and fog clearing through the morning to leave a mostly dry afternoon with sunny intervals. Light and variable winds, moderate at times. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 6C (43F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Early mist and fog clearing to leave a dry day with long spells of sunshine, perhaps turning hazy in places through the afternoon. Light to moderate east to northeasterly winds. Maximum 23C (73F), minimum 7C (45F).
London, E Anglia, E Mids, SE Eng, E Eng: Mainly dry with widespread cloud and perhaps a chance of the odd patch of drizzle through the morning. Turning brighter by the afternoon with sunny periods. Light to moderate northeasterly winds. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 7C (45F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	11:29	3.6	--:--	--
Avonmouth	04:47	10.6	17:21	10.8
Belfast	09:00	3.1	21:38	3.0
Cardiff	04:33	10.2	17:08	10.3
Devonport	03:17	4.6	15:56	4.6
Dover	09:06	5.6	21:20	5.8
Dublin	09:39	3.5	22:05	3.5
Falmouth	02:47	4.3	15:26	4.3
Greenock	10:01	3.0	23:09	2.9
Harwich	09:38	3.4	21:54	3.4
Holyhead	08:19	4.7	20:55	4.8
Hull	04:13	6.1	16:23	6.2
Leith	--:--	--	12:42	4.6
Liverpool	09:02	7.8	21:32	7.9
London Bridge	11:39	6.0	--:--	--
Lowestoft	07:58	2.2	19:30	2.2
Milford Haven	04:00	5.7	16:30	5.7
Morecambe	09:15	7.8	21:44	7.9
Newhaven	09:04	5.4	21:27	5.8
Newquay	02:56	5.6	15:25	5.7
Oban	03:47	3.2	16:26	3.2
Penzance	02:28	4.6	14:59	4.6
Portsmouth	09:34	3.9	21:58	4.2
Shoreham	09:03	5.0	21:30	5.4
Southampton	08:23	3.7	20:53	4.0
Swansea	04:01	7.7	16:35	7.9
Tees	01:32	4.6	13:41	4.7
Weymouth	04:09	1.5	17:08	1.6



Synoptic situation

High pressure will continue to dominate across Britain and Ireland, keeping conditions mostly dry and settled with some patchy cloud in the east and lengthy spells of sunshine in the west. A cold front associated with a low-pressure system over northern Norway will bring the odd patch of light rain or drizzle to the Northern Isles at times.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Porthmadog, Gwynedd, 24.9C
Coldest: Aboyne, 0.7C
Wettest: Kirkwall, Orkney, 0.2mm
Sunniest: Manston, 9.9hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 04.49
Sun sets: 21.05
Moon rises: 16.49
Moon sets: 03.18 Thu
Full Moon: June 4

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:18-03:52
Belfast	22:16-04:24
Birmingham	21:48-04:20
Cardiff	21:48-04:31
Exeter	21:46-04:36
Glasgow	22:18-04:09
Liverpool	21:58-04:20
London	21:36-04:19
Manchester	21:55-04:16
Newcastle	22:01-04:05
Norwich	21:36-04:07
Penzance	21:51-04:47
Sheffield	21:51-04:14

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



An intriguing story appeared in The Times 100 years ago (See "Strange mirage forms a fleet of ships over the Alps", From the Archive, May 11, 2023). Two Englishmen were climbing the Finsteraarhorn in the Swiss Alps on May 2, 1923, described as "a day of perfect weather and extremely good visibility".

"Suddenly at 11.55am the image of a ship appeared in the sky just to the east of the Eiger peak, floating in a blue shimmer just beyond the visible horizon," wrote Lt Col Philip Neame of the Royal Engineers.

His companion on the climb, the mountaineer Francis "Frank" Smythe, described: "Very soon after a line of five ships appeared further east, funnels and masts clearly distinguishable. This image lasted for some 15 minutes, and varied in its clearness from time to time." The ships loomed unusually large so were easy to see in great detail.

The nearest sea was estimated to be the eastern end of the English Channel where it joins the North Sea, a distance of some 400 miles.

"This would appear a most extraordinary distance for a mirage, if such it was," Neame recorded. "Both Mr Smythe and myself saw the ships so clearly that we could not have mistaken any cloud effect for ships."

The experience is described in the book *My Father, Frank: Unresting Spirit of Everest* by Tony Smythe.

This was undoubtedly an astonishing mirage, although not unique. In March 1822, William Scoresby, the Arctic explorer, was surveying the coast of Greenland when he saw a ship apparently sailing upside down in the air. It was in fact his father's ship, Fame, accompanying him on the voyage, but it was about 30 miles away at the time and would have been expected to be out of sight, below the horizon.

The weather was calm with a layer of warm air lying above cold air over the surface of the sea. That sharp temperature difference between warm and cold air refracted the light from far below the horizon like a giant lens, creating the mirage.

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Sport

Change cars, not quirky Monaco

Alasdair Reid



It is invitingly easy to complain that the Monaco Grand Prix has become an anachronism in motor racing. It is also hugely misleading. Truth is, Monaco was an anachronism right from the start.

An act of defiance, too. In 1928 the Automobile Club de Monaco (ACM) applied for international recognition. When this was rejected on the grounds that no major motorsport event was held — or could even be possible — entirely within the confines of the tiny principality, the gentlemen of the ACM set to work and plotted a route through their tight and winding streets. That circuit, first used in 1929, is pretty much the same one in use today.

While Formula One cars have become longer, wider and considerably faster, the streets of Monaco have barely changed. Those alterations that have been made to the circuit have mostly been safety-driven. Given the size of the place (just a nudge over two square kilometres), building density and some inconvenient topography, it is difficult to imagine what changes could be made to counter the criticism that it is now near-impossible for one car to pass another.

Yes, it could be tweaked. Removing the Nouvelle Chicane, where the cars drop down from the tunnel and into the harbour section, is one possibility, but as it was put there for safety reasons, removal could be seen as a retrograde step. Ultimately, no amount of fiddling with this and rejigging of that can solve the fundamental problem that F1 cars are not built to race around city streets.

That problem was all too obvious for the first 50 laps of Sunday's grand prix, and had rain not rolled in to spice things up it would have remained obvious for the remaining 28 laps as well. When the weekend was over we could reflect on a decently entertaining contest that had been preceded by an absolutely thrilling qualifying session, but we also knew that we were lucky in both regards. There have been plenty of Monaco weekends that provided neither.

Out of politeness, or possibly the suspicion that some medieval Monégasque statute entitles the all-powerful royal family to boil critics in oil, F1 teams are generally restrained when it comes to expressing reservations about the place. So the Red Bull team principal, Christian Horner, may have been taking his life in his hands when, on the eve of the race, he suggested that changes would have to be made to maintain Monaco's relevance as a venue.

"The prospect of an overtake is virtually impossible under normal running conditions," Horner said. "For the long-term viability of this venue, nothing stands still forever. Everything has to keep evolving. It would be great to look at what is possible to introduce some genuine overtaking opportunities around the circuit or to adapt the circuit over a period of time."

Fair enough, but others think differently. Responding to Horner, Ferrari's race director, Laurent Mekies, said: "Accepting that overtaking is very difficult and that we only concentrate pretty much on Saturday [qualifying] here, I think it's part of what makes this place unique. I would probably refrain from touching the track layout also for historical reasons and for keeping very high-character places like this one."

Horner's point was typically provocative, but Mekies's will probably win the day. Whether purists like it or not, Monaco is the commercial jewel in F1's crown, the venue that, more than any other, reinforces the sport's status as the pinnacle of motor racing. It is the place where teams bring their most generous sponsors and most high-profile guests.

Like the rest of us, Liberty Media, F1's owners, would probably like to see more overtaking, but so long as every A-lister on earth covets an invitation to visit the pre-race, they can be happy with what they have to offer.

Liberty has a clear enthusiasm for street races at iconic venues. Miami came on board last year, Las Vegas will make its debut in November. The notion that they would ditch Monaco because the racing itself can be a little dull is laughable.

And who wants a homogenous sport anyway? What's so wrong with a quirky outlier? If you wanted to watch the very best of golf's Open Championship then the Old Course at St Andrews, with its silly layout and hopeless viewing facilities, would be the last place to go. And yet, for all its flaws, it is the one place golf fans from all over the world want to visit. Monaco, for all its flaws, has that same bucket-list cachet.

Golf's authorities recently grasped the nettle of illustrious old courses being rendered redundant by modern technology with the introduction of "rollback" regulations to limit the distance a ball can travel — land is finite and courses could not keep lengthening to accommodate big hitters. Maybe F1 should start thinking along the same lines for Monaco. Maybe it's not the circuit that needs to change, but the cars.

DAN ISTITENE/FORMULA 1/GETTY IMAGES



Tweaks, such as removing Nouvelle Chicane, could be made to accommodate wider and considerably faster cars — but F1's commercial jewel will not be abandoned

Novel change that could improve Monaco

Added in 1986, the Nouvelle Chicane was designed to slow cars down and make the track safer. Some have suggested removing it could improve the quality of racing and potential for overtaking



Results and scoreboards

Cricket

Vitality Blast: North group

Notts Outlaws v Yorkshire Vikings

Trent Bridge (Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire Vikings (2pts) beat Notts Outlaws by eight runs

Yorkshire Vikings		(balls)
A Lyth c Carter b Brooks	12	(14)
D J Malan not out	83	(53)
W A Luxton c Munro b Brooks	0	(3)
*S M Khan c James b Montgomery	34	(23)
D Wiese c Clarke b Patel	11	(8)
M L Revis c Hales b Brooks	9	(7)
J A Thompson c Carter b Afridi	1	(2)
B W M Mike c Montgomery b Brooks	15	(6)
D M Bess not out	0	(0)
Extras (lb 2, w 2)	4	
Total (7 wkts, 19.2 overs)	**169**	

†J A Tattersall and J A Chohan did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-41, 2-41, 3-91, 4-109, 5-151, 6-152, 7-169.

Bowling Afridi 4-0-29-1; Carter 4-0-33-0; Brooks 3.2-0-39-4; Mullaney 2-0-15-0; Patel 3-0-28-1; Montgomery 2-0-18-1; James 1-0-5-0.

Notts Outlaws		(balls)
J M Clarke c Tattersall b Wiese	8	(6)
A D Hales c Luxton b Wiese	53	(35)
C Munro c Khan b Thompson	46	(41)
M Montgomery c Malan b Mike	28	(19)
†T J Moores not out	15	(15)
L W James not out	11	(5)
Extras (lb 4, w 7, nb 2)	13	
Total (4 wkts, 20 overs)	**174**	

*S J Mullaney, S R Patel, M Carter, S S Afridi and J A Brooks did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-15, 2-99, 3-134, 4-157.

Bowling Bess 4-0-31-0; Wiese 4-0-32-2; Mike 2-0-18-1; Thompson 4-0-33-1; Chohan 2-0-22-0; Revis 4-0-34-0.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Birmingham	3	3	0	0	0	**6**	1.82
Worcestershire	3	3	0	0	0	**6**	0.86
Lancashire	4	3	1	0	0	**6**	0.81
Durham	3	2	1	0	0	**4**	1.49
Nottinghamshire	4	2	2	0	0	**4**	0.14
Yorkshire	4	1	3	0	0	**2**	-0.72
Northamptonshire	3	1	2	0	0	**2**	-1.05
Derbyshire	3	0	3	0	0	**0**	-1.05
Leicestershire	3	0	3	0	0	**0**	-2.37

South group

Essex Eagles v Gloucestershire

Chelmsford (Essex won toss): Essex Eagles (2pts) beat Gloucestershire by three wickets

Gloucestershire		(balls)
G Roelofsen c Rossington b Walter	29	(17)
C D J Dent c Walter b Critchley	33	(23)
M A H Hammond c Westley b Harmer	2	(4)
O J Price b Walter	11	(13)
*J M R Taylor c Harmer b Sams	26	(28)
B G Charlesworth c Rossington b Cook	52	(20)
†J R Bracey c Walter b Sams	6	(2)
D J Lamb not out	12	(7)
M de Lange not out	17	(7)
Extras (lb 1, w 4, nb 2)	7	
Total (7 wkts, 20 overs)	**195**	

T M J Smith and D A Payne did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-61, 2-64, 3-72, 4-80, 5-157, 6-164, 7-165.

Bowling Harmer 2-0-18-1; Sams 4-0-36-2; Cook 3-0-45-1; Allison 1-0-17-0; Walter 4-0-33-2; Critchley 4-0-29-1; Snater 2-0-16-0.

Essex Eagles		(balls)
†A M Rossington c Price b De Lange	5	(4)
F I N Khushi c sub b Payne	34	(14)
R J Das c Hammond b Price	69	(33)
M J J Critchley c Price b Charlesworth	10	(11)
P I Walter b Price	15	(12)
T Westley not out	31	(23)
D R Sams c Charlesworth b Payne	15	(8)
*S R Harmer c Dent b Smith	6	(11)
S Snater not out	0	(0)
Extras (lb 2, w 7, nb 2)	11	
Total (7 wkts, 19.1 overs)	**196**	

B M J Allison and S J Cook did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-18, 2-58, 3-107, 4-125, 5-146, 6-176, 7-192.

Bowling Payne 4-0-34-2; De Lange 0.3-0-7-1; Charlesworth 2.3-0-32-1; Lamb 4-0-46-0; Smith 4-0-36-1; Taylor 1-0-12-0; Price 3.1-0-27-2.

Kent Spitfires v Somerset

Canterbury (Kent won toss): Somerset (2pts) beat Kent Spitfires by 13 runs (DLS Method)

Somerset		(balls)
†T Banton c Leaning b Hogan	12	(8)
W C F Smeed b Agar	0	(4)
T Kohler-Cadmore c Cox b Hogan	23	(11)
T B Abell c Bell-Drummond b Evison	11	(14)
T A Lammonby c Billings b Stewart	34	(31)
*L Gregory c Hogan b Stewart	13	(15)
B G F Green b Agar	22	(12)
R E van der Merwe c Leaning b Hogan	17	(10)
J H Davey not out	8	(10)
M J Henry c Leaning b Agar	0	(1)
P M Siddle run out	5	(4)
Extras (lb 5, w 4)	9	
Total (20 overs)	**154**	

Fall of wickets 1-13, 2-34, 3-40, 4-57, 5-90, 6-117, 7-124, 8-144, 9-146.

Bowling Denly 2-0-29-0; Hogan 4-0-33-3; Agar 4-0-18-3; Stewart 4-0-21-2; Evison 4-0-32-1; Linde 2-0-16-0.

Kent Spitfires		(balls)
T S Muyeye c Abell b Davey	5	(4)
D J Bell-Drummond b Siddle	13	(13)
J L Denly b Henry	1	(3)
*†S W Billings b Gregory	29	(27)
J M Cox c Henry b Van der Merwe	8	(7)
J A Leaning c Van der Merwe b Siddle	10	(9)
G F Linde b Green	13	(11)
G Stewart c Lammonby b Green	4	(2)
J D M Evison c Lammonby b Gregory	11	(8)
W A Agar c Henry b Green	6	(4)
M G Hogan not out	3	(3)
Extras (lb 7, nb 2)	9	
Total (15 overs)	**112**	

Fall of wickets 1-6, 2-7, 3-39, 4-53, 5-61, 6-83, 7-87, 8-93, 9-100.

Bowling Davey 3-0-28-1; Henry 3-0-9-1; Siddle 3-0-28-2; Gregory 3-0-17-2; Van der Merwe 1-0-4-1; Green 2-0-19-3.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Somerset	4	4	0	0	0	**8**	2.18
Surrey	3	2	1	0	0	**4**	1.86
Essex	1	1	0	0	0	**2**	0.48
Kent	3	1	2	0	0	**2**	-0.07
Sussex	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	-0.07
Gloucestershire	4	1	3	0	0	**2**	-0.97
Glamorgan	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	-1.00
Hampshire	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	-1.84
Middlesex	3	0	3	0	0	**0**	-1.61

Tennis

French Open

Roland Garros, Paris: First round (seeds in brackets): **Men** (4) C Ruud (Nor) bt E Ymer (Swe) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; T Paul (US) bt D Stricker (Switz) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; (27) Y Nishioka (Japan) bt J Wolf (US) 1-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; M Purcell (Aus) bt J Thompson (Aus) 7-5, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4; N Jarry (Chile) bt H Dellien (Bol) 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; (22) A Zverev (Ger) bt L Harris (SA) 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-0), 6-1; G Olivieri (Arg) bt G Perricard (Fr) 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1; A Molcan (Slova) bt H Gaston (Fr) 6-1, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4; A Vavassori (It) bt (31) M Kecmanovic (Ser) 5-7, 2-6, 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (11-9); G Zeppieri (It) bt A Bublik (Kaz) 6-0, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; T Seyboth Wild (Br) bt (2) D Medvedev (Russ) 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (6-8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; (23) F Cerúndolo (Arg) bt J Munar (Sp) 6-1, 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1; (6) H Rune (Den) bt C Eubanks (US) 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2; E Ruusuvuori (Fin) bt G Barrere (Fr) 6-2, 6-7 (7-9), 5-7, 6-1, 6-4; (9) T Fritz (US) bt M Mmoh (US) 6-2, 6-1, 6-1; (28) G Dimitrov (Bul) bt T Skatov (Kaz) 6-0, 6-3, 6-2; A Rinderknech (Fr) bt R Gasquet (Fr) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4); G Pella (Arg) bt Q Halys (Fr) 6-4, 6-7 (7-9), 2-6, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (10-4); Y Hanfmann (Ger) bt T Monteiro (Br) 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (6-8), 6-7 (2-7), 6-4. **Women** (7) O Jabeur (Tun) bt L Bronzetti (It) 6-4, 6-1; D Parry (Fr) bt A Kalinina (Ukr) 6-2, 6-3; M Andreeva (Russ) bt A Riske (US) 6-2, 6-1; O Danilovic (Ser) bt K Baindl (Ukr) 6-3, 6-2; Wang Xinyu (China) bt (31) M Bouzkova (Cz) 6-4, 7-6 (7-5); (6) C Gauff (US) bt R Masarova (Sp) 3-6, 6-1, 6-2; O Dodin (Fr) bt S Janicijevic (Fr) 0-6, 6-2, 6-1; J Grabher (Austria) bt A Rus (Neth) 6-2, 6-3; L Noskova (Cz) bt D Kovinic (Mont) 6-3, 2-1 ret; R Peterson (Swe) bt F Ferro (Fr) 6-2, 6-0; J Paolini (It) bt (3) S Cirstea (Rom) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2; S Sorribes Tormo (Sp) bt C Burel (Fr) 7-6 (7-0), 6-2; L Tsurenko (Ukr) bt (13) B Krejcikova (Cz) 6-2, 6-4; (4) E Rybakina (Kaz) bt B Fruhvirtova (Cz) 6-4, 6-2; L Davis (US) bt Lin Zhu (China) 6-3, 6-3; (1) I Swiatek (Pol) bt C Bucsa (Sp) 6-4, 6-0; C Liu (US) bt Y In-Albon (Switz) 6-1, 6-4; P Martic (Cro) bt (32) S Rogers (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; E Navarro (US) bt E Andreeva (Russ) 6-2, 3-6, 6-4; B Andreescu (Can) (18) bt V Azarenka (Bela) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Fixtures

Football

Europa League final Sevilla v Roma (8.0, at Puskas Arena, Budapest).

Cricket

Vitality Blast: North group: Northampton Northamptonshire v Birmingham (6.30). **South group: Ageas Bowl** Hampshire v Surrey (7.0). **Northwood** Middlesex v Glamorgan (4.30).

Charlotte Edwards Cup: Northampton Sunrisers v Western Storm (2.30). **Ageas Bowl** Southern Vipers v Thunder (3.0).

Hamilton Park
Rob Wright

2.20 Abate
2.50 Invincible Tiger
3.20 Lord Abama
3.50 Sea Grey
4.20 Bay Dream Believer
4.50 Arkenstaar
5.20 Breguet Boy

Going: good to firm — **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

2.20 Handicap (£4,187: 5f) (7 runners)
1 (5) -4356 **ROCK MELODY** 17 J Goldie 4-10-0 **J Peate (3)**
2 (6) 00-53 **ABATE** 15 (BF,D) Adrian Nicholls 7-10-0 **Mia Nicholls (7)**
3 (7) 3-001 **RAMON DI LORIA** 9 (D) Ewan Whillans 5-10-0(5ex) **H Russell**
4 (2) 40-43 **BE PROUD** 7 (P,BF,D) J Goldie 7-9-12 **Amie Waugh (3)**
5 (3) 60-50 **SOUL SEEKER** 34 (T,CD) D O'Meara 6-9-11 **M Winn (3)**
6 (4) 0-451 **REFUGE** 24 (T,CD) M & D Easterby 6-9-9 **L Chalkley (7)**
7 (1) 00-04 **BRIAN THE SNAIL** 10 (P,D) P Morris 9-8-12 **B Loughnane**

11-4 Rock Melody, 3-1 Ramon Di Loria, 4-1 Refuge, Abate, 13-2 Be Proud, 16-1 Brian The Snail, 20-1 Soul Seeker.

Rob Wright's choice: Abate was collared close home over half a furlong further at Wetherby **Danger:** Be Proud

2.50 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,806: 5f) (9)
1 (6) 4 **CRACK THE KODE** 15 K Ryan 9-7 **S Gray**
2 (4) **GANESHA** Phillip Makin 9-7 **C Rodriguez**
3 (7) 52 **LIEUTENANT RASCAL** 12 (B) G Scott 9-7 **P Mulrennan**
4 (3) 024 **TEES DOUGE** 39 Adrian Nicholls 9-7 **C Murtagh**
5 (2) 03 **MOYOLA** 23 L Russell 9-5 **Oisin Orr**
6 (9) **PROFESSOR TICKLE** D Loughnane 9-5 **Laura Pearson (3)**
7 (8) **SWORDPLAY** Charlie Johnston 9-5 **J Fanning**
8 (1) 6 **INVINCIBLE TIGER** 25 J Tate 9-2 **P J McDonald**
9 (5) 04 **GRECIAN PRINCESS** 11 G Tuer 9-0 **O Stammers**

9-4 Lieutenant Rascal, 9-2 Invincible Tiger, 6-1 Swordplay, 13-2 Grecian Princess, Crack The Kode, 8-1 Tees Douge, 10-1 Moyola, 20-1 others.

Wright choice: Invincible Tiger needed the experience at Thirsk **Dangers:** Lieutenant Rascal, Grecian Princess

3.20 Handicap (£6,621: 6f) (6)
1 (6) 15645 **SWISS ACE** 11 R Carr 5-10-3 **B Loughnane (3)**
2 (4) -0003 **YAASER** 7 (BF) J Goldie 5-9-7 **P Mulrennan**
3 (2) 42563 **GANNON GLORY** 23 R Fahey 4-9-5 **Oisin Orr**
4 (1) -2042 **LORD ABAMA** 9 (P) M Dods 4-9-5 **C Beasley**
5 (3) 06333 **THAKI** 9 (T,D) K Scott 6-8-13 **J Fanning**
6 (5) 054- **BLUE JAY WAY** 245 J Riches 3-8-6 **C Hardie**

15-8 Lord Abama, 3-1 Swiss Ace, 9-2 Yaaser, 5-1 Gannon Glory, 6-1 Thaki, 25-1 Blue Jay Way.

Wright choice: Lord Abama races off the same handicap mark as when a neck second at Carlisle **Danger:** Swiss Ace

3.50 Handicap (£5,627: 1m 3f) (5)
1 (4) 05-00 **MOLINARI** 14 (CD) M Todhunter 6-9-9 **D Nolan**
2 (1) 36-20 **SEA GREY** 14 D O'Meara 4-9-8 **J Watson**
3 (3) 66-21 **WHERE'S JEFF** 24 (P,CD) M & D Easterby 8-9-0 **S Gray**
4 (2) 020-1 **SIMPLE STAR** 26 D Sayer 5-8-10 **P J McDonald**
5 (5) 10-00 **A LA FRANCAISE** 17 (CD) J Goldie 4-8-10 **C Hardie**

2-1 Sea Grey, 9-4 Where's Jeff, 5-2 Simple Star, 10-1 Molinari, A La Francaise.

Wright choice: Sea Grey struggled in a more competitive race at York; he can bounce back **Danger:** Where's Jeff

4.20 Handicap (£4,187: 1m) (6)
1 (4) 200-3 **ARRANMORE** 11 (D) D Sayer 6-9-9 **P J McDonald**
2 (5) 200-3 **CIOTOG** 22 M Loughnane 5-9-9 **B Loughnane (3)**
3 (3) -0223 **SHINE ON BRENDAN** 7 (CD) J Goldie 6-9-5 **P Mulrennan**
4 (1) 4-204 **STRANGERONTHESHORE** 9 (D) N Tinkler 5-9-5 **F McManoman**
5 (2) 06004 **END ZONE** 16 (B,D) R Fell 6-9-1 **J Peate (3)**
6 (6) 04021 **BAY DREAM BELIEVER** 15 (H,D) M Walford 4-8-12 **J Fanning**

11-4 Bay Dream Believer, 3-1 Shine On Brendan, 100-30 Strangerontheshore, 4-1 Arranmore, 10-1 Ciotog, End Zone.

Wright choice: Bay Dream Believer won at Wetherby and he remains unexposed over this trip **Danger:** Arranmore

4.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,187: 1m 1f) (6)
1 (1) 2201- **HI CLARE** 244 (D) Charlie Johnston 9-11 **J Fanning**
2 (4) 22-45 **SILK BIRD** 26 J O'Keeffe 9-8 **J Garritty**
3 (3) 502-5 **TIME TRAVELLER** 48 R Fahey 9-8 **Oisin Orr**
4 (5) 16-20 **TIAMAT** 15 E Bethell 9-8 **C Rodriguez**
5 (2) 4-321 **ARKENSTAAR** 12 (CD) M Dods 9-5 **C Beasley**
6 (6) 6-655 **EPONA PAS** 12 J Goldie 8-9 **C Hardie**

5-4 Arkenstaar, 7-2 Hi Clare, 11-2 Tiamat, 8-1 Time Traveller, Epona Pas, 10-1 Silk Bird.

Wright choice: Arkenstaar won in good style over this course and distance; he can defy a 5lb rise **Danger:** Tiamat

5.20 Handicap (£3,664: 1m 1f) (7)
1 (5) 04141 **IRON SHERIFF** 2 R Fell 5-10-0(5ex) **J Peate (3)**
2 (3) 21361 **BREGUET BOY** 16 (P,C,D) K Dalgleish 6-9-9 **B Garritty**
3 (6) 0-010 **COSA SARA** 16 (C) J Goldie 5-9-9 **P Mulrennan**
4 (4) 3006- **SPANISH HUSTLE** J148 (W,BF) J Goldie 5-9-8 **Oisin Orr**
5 (1) 04356 **HOT TEAM** 23 (V,CD) P Morris 7-9-4 **D Nolan**
6 (7) 05-50 **SAMURAI SNEDDZ** 131 (P,D) K Scott 4-9-0 **J Fanning**
7 (2) -5350 **MR GAMBINO** 32 (B) J Riches 6-9-0 **C Hardie**

7-4 Breguet Boy, 5-2 Iron Sheriff, 4-1 Cosa Sara, 10-1 Hot Team, 12-1 Samurai Sneddz, 14-1 Spanish Hustle, 16-1 Mr Gambino.

Wright choice: Breguet Boy won at Musselburgh; he is still well handicapped on his best form **Danger:** Iron Sheriff

Blinkered first time: Beverley 2.40 Mist Of Lir. 2.40 Chicabiddy. 5.12 Yakhabar. **Hamilton Park** 2.50 Lieutenant Rascal.

Beverley
Rob Wright

2.10 High Security (nap)
2.40 Travel Candy
3.10 Star Zinc
3.40 Man Of A'an
4.10 Shaladar
4.40 El Royale
5.12 Cloudy Rose

Going: good to firm, good in places — **Racing TV**
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best

2.10 Handicap (£4,004: 5f) (12)
1 (12) -4034 **HIGH SECURITY** 15 (CD) N Tinkler 5-10-4 **A Jary (3)**
2 (3) 346-0 **EMERALDS PRIDE** 23 M Dods 4-10-2 **A Keeley**
3 (6) 0-002 **VAN GERWEN** 10 (CD) P Midgley 10-9-13 **A Fielding (3)**
4 (8) 43001 **HARRY WITH STYLE** 54 (P) J Ryan 3-9-10 **A Tracey (5)**
5 (11) 0605 **ROMAN BLAZE** 23 (H) J Bedi 4-9-10 **A Brookes**
6 (4) 00055 **IMPERIAL KHAN** 16 (P) P Midgley 4-9-8 **Laura Coughlan**
7 (7) 2-540 **SNOW BERRY** 23 (P,D) M Appleby 5-9-8 **Erika Parkinson (3)**
8 (9) 250-5 **HOWYADOIN** 35 T Easterby 3-9-4 **B Wilkie (3)**
9 (5) 0-652 **SHARRABANG** 12 (D) Mrs Stella Barclay 7-9-3 **Z Wheatley**
10 (2) 600-0 **SIR ARTHUR'S BOY** 20 (P) Mrs A Duffield 3-9-2 **W Pyle (3)**
11 (10) 34000 **GOLDEN PROSPERITY** 11 (P) T Coyle 4-9-2 **K Schofield**
12 (1) 000- **STAR OF HAVANA** 209 K Ryan 3-9-0 **C Wilson-Ruddock (5)**

7-2 Harry With Style, 4-1 Van Gerwen, 5-1 Sharrabang, 13-2 High Security, 7-1 Emeralds Pride, 12-1 Imperial Khan, Snow Berry, Star Of Havana.

2.40 Claiming Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,510: 5f) (9)
1 (9) 6400 **MIST OF LIR** 9 (B) Miss A Murphy 9-7 **T Marquand**
2 (6) 6 **LASTINGHAM** 25 D O'Meara 9-3 **R Oliver**
3 (3) 606 **BELLESTARR** 9 Craig Lidster 9-2 **W Pyle (7)**
4 (7) 00 **NAVAL FLIGHT** 16 D O'Meara 9-2 **D Tudhope**
5 (4) 00 **BARGAIN BASEMENT** 9 M & D Easterby 8-13 **Joanna Mason**
6 (8) **LADY OF THE GARR** D Loughnane 8-12 **Rossa Ryan**
7 (1) 540 **PATASOLA** 5 T Easterby 8-12 **D Allan**
8 (5) 0 **CHICABIDDY** 42 (B) T Easterby 8-8 **D Fentiman**
9 (2) 06 **TRAVEL CANDY** 25 Kevin Coleman 8-5 **F Norton**

11-4 Patasola, 100-30 Travel Candy, 11-2 Lastingham, 15-2 Lady Of The Garr, 8-1 Mist Of Lir, Bellestarr, 12-1 Bargain Basement, 14-1 others.

3.10 Handicap (£4,527: 7f) (12)
1 (12) /00-0 **PARK STREET** 11 Miss T Jackson 4-9-9 **P Dennis**
2 (10) 065-1 **BELTANE** 53 M Appleby 4-9-9 **T Marquand**
3 (3) 14506 **BOAFO BOY** 27 (T,D) J Osborne 4-9-8 **S Osborne**
4 (6) -6400 **MERCURIUS POWER** 37 (D) Jessica Macey 5-9-7 **L Edmunds**
5 (1) 60-00 **CULCOR** 18 (V,D) D O'Meara 4-9-7 **D Tudhope**
6 (4) 456-6 **STAR ZINC** 18 (H) O Greenall & J Guerriero 4-9-6 **A Rawlinson**
7 (7) 00-00 **CLIFFCAKE** 11 (D) S Bowring 5-9-6 **B Robinson**
8 (11) 06-50 **FLASH THE DASH** 26 (D) J Camacho 4-9-5 **G Lee**
9 (5) 54-00 **SIR MAXI** 25 (CD) R Fahey 5-9-1 **O Murphy**
10 (2) 0-424 **UGO GREGORY** 15 (P,T,CD) T Easterby 7-8-13 **D Allan**
11 (9) 10-33 **SPECIAL MAYSON** 35 (BF,D) Mrs P Sly 5-8-13 **D Costello**
12 (8) 6-060 **TEMPER TRAP** 15 (D) T Easterby 6-8-8 **JP Sullivan**

3-1 Beltane, 7-2 Special Mayson, 4-1 Ugo Gregory, 7-1 Star Zinc, 8-1 Sir Maxi, 14-1 Boafo Boy, 16-1 Mercurius Power, Flash The Dash, Culcor, Cliffcake.

3.40 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 7f) (7)
1 (5) **BOBBY'S BLESSING** Charlie Johnston 4-10-0 **O Murphy**
2 (7) 62 **MAN OF A'AN** 27 Harry Eustace 3-9-5 **H Turner**
3 (6) 00-22 **SIDNEY'S SON** 23 N Tinkler 3-9-5 **R Scott**
4 (3) 50- **TIPP TOWN** 242 J J Quinn 3-9-5 **J Hart**
5 (4) 336 **LEAP DAY** 20 T Easterby 3-9-3 **D Allan**
6 (2) 62 **DANCE ANGEL** 19 D O'Meara 3-8-12 **B Robinson**
7 (1) 56 **LADY DOUGLAS** 19 M & D Easterby 3-8-12 **Joanna Mason**

9-4 Man Of A'An, 3-1 Leap Day, 4-1 Sidney's Son, 9-2 Bobby's Blessing, 8-1 Dance Angel, 14-1 Tipp Town, 33-1 Lady Douglas.

4.10 Handicap (£5,574: 1m 100yd) (9)
1 (1) 12-25 **SHALADAR** 17 (P,D) K Ryan 4-9-11 **T Eaves**
2 (5) 401-0 **CASILLI** 17 (CD) M & D Easterby 6-9-10 **Joanna Mason**
3 (9) 020-0 **SCOTCH MISTRESS** 17 (T,C) D O'Meara 4-9-9 **D Tudhope**
4 (3) 31043 **GOLDEN SANDS** 34 (H,P,D) M Appleby 4-9-4 **A Rawlinson**
5 (7) 0-652 **DANDY MAESTRO** 18 (B,D) R Spencer 5-9-4 **T Marquand**
6 (6) 03-00 **CROWN PRINCESS** 17 (CD) O Pears 5-9-1 **G Lee**
7 (4) 1-400 **POET'S DAWN** 17 (CD) T Easterby 8-9-0 **D Allan**
8 (2) 210-0 **CAPTAIN CORELLI** 15 (CD) J Camacho 6-8-10 **J Hart**
9 (8) 00-60 **WAR DEFENDER** 85 (T,D) T Easterby 6-8-6 **D Fentiman**

11-4 Shaladar, 7-2 Dandy Maestro, 5-1 Golden Sands, 7-1 Casilli, 10-1 Poet's Dawn, Scotch Mistress, Crown Princess, 12-1 others.

4.40 Handicap (£4,004: 1m 100yd) (11)
1 (6) -2521 **HOSTELRY** 7 (D) R Carr 6-9-10 **A Jary (7)**
2 (10) 3-460 **EL ROYALE** 33 M Appleby 4-9-7 **O Murphy**
3 (7) 2400- **AVAILABLE ANGEL** 170 (D) J Mackie 5-9-6 **J Hart**
4 (2) 5-506 **CLOTHERHOLME** 16 (H,P,CD) Mrs A Duffield 6-9-6 **D Allan**
5 (1) 22262 **CAPTAIN ST LUCIFER** 32 (T,BF) Suzzanne France 6-9-5 **W Carver (3)**
6 (3) 34136 **URBAN ROAD** 23 (P,BF,D) A Brown 4-9-3 **R Scott**
7 (8) -2055 **MAC AILEY** 31 (P,D) T Easterby 7-9-3 **S B Kirrane (3)**
8 (11) 532-0 **LADY ZIANA** 76 (P) P Midgley 5-9-3 **G Lee**
9 (4) 50-63 **MR HEINZ** 15 (P) Simon Whitaker 4-9-0 **P Dennis**
10 (5) 30005 **KRYSTAL MAZE** 30 (D) O Pears 5-9-0 **JP Sullivan**
11 (9) 0000- **TRULIE GOOD** 386 (T) S Bowring 5-9-0 **L Edmunds**

2-1 Hostelry, 9-2 Captain St Lucifer, 7-1 Mr Heinz, 8-1 Urban Road, 10-1 Krystal Maze, El Royale, 12-1 Mac Ailey, Available Angel.

5.12 Handicap (£4,004: 1m 4f) (10)
1 (10) 63464 **YAKHABAR** 23 (B) Liam Bailey 4-9-9 **T Marquand**
2 (8) 2/16- **THREE DRAGONS** 163 (BF) Matt Crawley 6-9-8 **H Turner**
3 (9) 40-33 **BIT OF A QUIRKE** 19 (V,C,D) M Walford 10-9-7 **J Hart**
4 (4) 214-5 **JAMIH** 16 (D) Miss T Jackson 8-9-6 **Joanna Mason**
5 (6) 3D-00 **TIBERIO FORCE** 16 (P) Simon Whitaker 4-9-2 **L Edmunds**
6 (3) 06-0 **CORIANO RIDGE** 103 Olly Williams 5-9-1 **D Fentiman**
7 (2) 0606- **VALLEY OF FLOWERS** 160 (H) J Coward 5-9-0 **JP Sullivan**
8 (7) 00-43 **CHIEF CRAFTSMAN** 9 (P,D) T Easterby 9-8-13 **K Schofield (5)**
9 (5) 0430- **CROSSBEAU** 307 I W McInnes 4-8-12 **P Mathers**
10 (1) 30-01 **CLOUDY ROSE** 29 (D) J Berry 5-8-12 **O Murphy**

100-30 Cloudy Rose, 4-1 Chief Craftsman, 9-2 Bit Of A Quirke, 11-2 Jamih, 15-2 Three Dragons, 10-1 Yakhabar, Tiberio Force, 16-1 Valley Of Flowers.

Cartmel
Rob Wright

5.50 Battle Of Toro
6.20 Idealdes Villerets
6.50 Bugle Major
7.20 Line Of Descent (nb)
7.50 Grey Skies
8.20 Time Leader
8.50 Our Laura B

Going: good — **Racing TV**

5.50 Handicap Hurdle (£4,146: 2m 1f) (7)
1 340-0 **JEEPYDOFF MEEL** 16 P Kirby 5-12-0 **J Williamson**
2 002-2 **ELHAM VALLEY** 16 (T,D) F O'Brien 6-11-13 **J Hogan (3)**
3 134- **YUKON** 114 (D) J Moffatt 6-11-7 **W Shanahan (3)**
4 234P- **BATTLE OF TORO** 189 (V,CD) J Moffatt 7-11-5 **Charlotte Jones**
5 0340- **LIHYAN** 34 (H,D) R Menzies 5-11-2 **A Anderson**
6 100-5 **APPRECIATE** 8 (T,D) M Harris 5-11-2 **B Harris (6)**
7 6P0-5 **CUZCO DU MATHAN** 4 (P) J Moffatt 5-10-13 **L Norcei (10)**

7-4 Elham Valley, 9-2 Battle Of Toro, 5-1 Appreciate, Yukon, 8-1 Jeepydoff Meel, 10-1 Lihyan, 14-1 Cuzco Du Mathan.

6.20 Novices' Hurdle (£3,921: 2m 1f) (8)
1 433-1 **IDEALDES VILLERETS** 23 D McCain 5-11-9 **B Hughes**
2 062-1 **SPECIAL RATE** 15 (T,D) P Kirby 6-11-9 **T Dowson**
3 UF0P- **CAPTAIN NELSON** 33 (T) R M Smith 5-11-2 **W Shanahan (7)**
4 26- **FOXWOOD** 66 G Bewley 5-11-2 **D McMenamin**
5 **GRAND SCHEME** F245 (T) S England 5-11-2 **J England**
6 0-0 **ACOUSTIC** 25 (T) M Barnes 4-10-10 **C Rabbitt (7)**
7 **CITY VAULTS** F237 J Moffatt 4-10-10 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
8 6-56 **CONFELICITY** 17 A B Hamilton 5-10-9 **J Hamilton**

8-13 Idealdes Villerets, 11-4 Special Rate, 8-1 Grand Scheme, 12-1 City Vaults, 20-1 Foxwood, 50-1 Acoustic, 66-1 Confelicity, 100-1 Captain Nelson.

6.50 Handicap Hurdle (£3,089: 2m 1f) (11)
1 234-4 **TRUE ROMANCE** 22 (P,T) N Mulholland 9-12-0 **A P Heskin**
2 000-2 **HEY BOB** 22 (T,CD) J Coulson 11-11-11 **B Hughes**
3 /P05- **CALEVADE** F51 (P) B Haslam 7-11-7 **R McLernon**
4 0P6-0 **PRINCESS POPPY** 19 (P) O Murphy 5-11-0 **S Bowen**
5 P0PP- **CHARLIE'S ROCKSTAR** 101 (H) Mrs A C Hamilton 6-10-11 **J Hamilton**
6 300-0 **BUGLE MAJOR** 17 (B) A Watson 8-10-11 **Paul O'Brien**
7 300-0 **INGLEBY MACKENZIE** 15 (B) Ewan Whillans 9-10-11 **S Quinlan**
8 340-0 **MCPHERSON** 25 (P,T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 5-10-10 **H Brooke**
9 645- **EDINBURGH ROCK** F28 (V) M Harris 4-10-9 **B Harris (5)**
10 054-4 **CLEAN GETAWAY** 19 (P) P Kirby 6-10-4 **J Williamson (5)**
11 0P0-0 **DIAMANT SUR CANAPE** 21 Ewan Whillans 5-10-3 **D McMenamin**

7-2 Clean Getaway, 5-1 Hey Bob, True Romance, 15-2 Edinburgh Rock, 10-1 Mcpherson, Princess Poppy, Diamant Sur Canape, Ingleby Mackenzie.

7.20 Handicap Chase (£5,021: 2m 1f) (11)
1 412-2 **SWORD OF FATE** 13 (BF,CD) L Kerr 10-12-1 **B Hughes**
2 P35-5 **RESTANDBETHANKFUL** 16 (H,T) R Menzies 7-11-13 **C O'Farrell**
3 120-0 **ARDERA CROSS** 4 (P,CD) W Young Jnr 12-11-8 **J Hamilton**
4 3331- **LINE OF DESCENT** 38 (T) W Greatrex 5-11-6 **S Bowen**
5 0002- **WE'LL GO AGAIN** F19 (T) S England 7-11-4 **J England**
6 215-6 **CHECK MY PULSE** 15 (P) R Menzies 7-11-2 **H Brooke**
7 064-0 **TICO TIMES** 15 (P,CD) Anna Slack 10-11-1 **Doubtful**
8 21U-U **LIVING'S BOY AN CO** 22 (P) J Wainwright 8-11-0 **R T Dunne**
9 /P50- **SECRETS DE FAMILLE** 73 (W) N Mechie 6-10-2 **S Mulqueen**
10 23/P- **WAR AT SEA** 37 (T) G Bewley 9-10-2 **J Bewley (3)**
11 P05-0 **KICKSAFTERSIX** 15 M Todhunter 7-10-2 **S Quinlan**

3-1 Line Of Descent, 7-2 Restandbethankful, 4-1 Sword Of Fate, 5-1 We'll Go Again, 8-1 Living's Boy An Co, 12-1 Check My Pulse, 16-1 others.

7.50 Handicap Chase (£6,582: 2m 5f) (6)
1 42P-1 **VINTAGE FIZZ** 25 J O'Keeffe 6-11-10 **C O'Farrell**
2 5411- **GREY SKIES** 35 D McCain 7-11-6 **B Hughes**
3 514-1 **HIDDEN DEPTHS** 30 (P,T,D) N Mulholland 8-10-11 **A P Heskin**
4 23UP- **JELSKI** 180 (P) J Moffatt 9-10-10 **W Shanahan (7)**
5 33P-4 **ZUMBI** 4 (P,BF) J Moffatt 6-10-10 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
6 022-1 **POST NO BILLS** 13 R Potter 8-10-5 **S Bowen**

9-4 Grey Skies, 5-2 Vintage Fizz, 5-1 Post No Bills, Hidden Depths, 6-1 Zumbi, 16-1 Jelski.

8.20 Open Hunters' Chase (£3,080: 3m 1f 107yd) (8)
1 U46P- **DRESSEDFORSUCCESS** 73 (CD) J Moffatt 10-12-8 **Mr N Orpwood (3)**
2 1P5-1 **TIME LEADER** 21 J J O'Shea 9-12-4 **Mr H Edwards (7)**
3 42P1- **WRITE IT DOWN** 32 (P,T,CD) R A Owen 9-12-4 **Miss Immy Robinson (5)**
4 PU23- **GABORIOT** 37 (P) O Greenall & J Guerriero 7-12-0 **Miss A Stevens (3)**
5 212-P **KILBREW BOY** 26 B Case 10-12-0 **Mr C Case (7)**
6 PP12- **SHOAL BAY** 45 O Murphy 10-12-0 **Mr Oliver Boyden (7)**
7 P420- **STEP BACK** 48 (B) M Bradstock 13-12-0 **Miss L Bradstock (7)**
8 52-51 **URBANIST** 10 R J Holmes 11-12-0 **Mr T McCain-Mitchell (7)**

11-8 Time Leader, 5-1 Dressedforsuccess, 7-1 Shoal Bay, Step Back, 8-1 Gaboriot, 10-1 Write It Down, 14-1 Kilbrew Boy, 16-1 Urbanist.

8.50 Handicap Hurdle (£4,084: 2m 6f) (8)
1 0000- **ALQAMAR** 277 (C) J Moffatt 9-12-0 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
2 1536- **BLAKENEY POINT** 210 (B,T) D McCain 10-11-10 **Abbie McCain (5)**
3 515-3 **CURLEY FINGER** 21 (P,T,BF) R Menzies 6-11-9 **N Moscrop**
4 212-1 **THATBEATSBANAGHER** 15 (P) B Haslam 9-11-9 **R McLernon**
5 344-5 **PYRAMID PLACE** 22 (H) M Harris 6-11-9 **B Harris (5)**
6 412-1 **OUR LAURA B** 15 B Haslam 5-11-7 **J Hogan (5)**
7 066-3 **PALM BEACH** 13 (P) J E Dixon 6-11-6 **Mr John Dixon (7)**
8 4515- **CITY DERBY** 40 (P) Lizzie Quinlan 7-11-1 **S Quinlan**

11-4 Thatbeatsbanagher, 3-1 Curley Finger, 100-30 Our Laura B, 8-1 Pyramid Place, Blakeney Point, 12-1 Alqamar, City Derby, 25-1 Palm Beach.

Newton Abbot
Rob Wright

1.55 Carrigeen Kampala
2.30 Ballinsker
3.00 Bala Brook
3.30 Chief Black Robe
4.00 Maroochi
4.30 Diligent
5.03 Charlie My Boy

Going: good, good to firm in places
Sky Sports Racing

1.55 Mares' 'NH' Novices' Hurdle (£4,955: 2m 1f) (10)
1 3351- **CARRIGEEN KAMPALA** 38 (D) F O'Brien 5-11-7 **L Harrison (3)**
2 5/0 **ALLEZ ALLEZ DANCER** 18 Ella Pickard 5-11-0 **J Davies**
3 22-04 **AMBUSH ANNIE** 10 (P,T) N Mulholland 6-11-0 **F Lambert (5)**
4 **BOLLYWOLLYWOTSIT** Ella Pickard 6-11-0 **J Best**
5 30-2 **EDE'IFFS ROCK** 30 W G M Turner 5-11-0 **C Leonard (5)**
6 03/ **JOBESGREEN GIRL** 407 (T) T R George 6-11-0 **C Gethings**
7 00-0 **MASKARA** 14 E Williams 5-11-0 **C Ring (3)**
8 04U- **RYDER'S ROCK** 34 Joe Tizzard 5-11-0 **H Kimber (3)**
9 **SCARLETT CLIPPER** (H) F O'Brien 6-11-0 **Mr T Broughton (7)**
10 005-3 **MAIRIS ICON** 14 Seamus Mullins 4-10-8 **M G Nolan**

13-8 Carrigeen Kampala, 4-1 Mairis Icon, Ede'iffs Rock, 11-2 Scarlett Clipper, 10-1 Ambush Annie, 12-1 Jobesgreen Girl, 33-1 others.

2.30 Handicap Chase (£7,434: 3m 2f) (5)
1 25P-6 **FORGOT TO ASK** 30 (P,T,D) T R George 11-12-0 **C Deutsch**
2 316-6 **TOMMIE BEAU** 22 (D) Seamus Mullins 8-11-12 **M G Nolan**
3 P321- **BALLINSKER** 51 (P) E Williams 8-11-11 **Isabel Williams (3)**
4 256-2 **TREVADA** 17 (T) O Sherwood 7-10-13 **S Twiston-Davies**
5 63P4- **PREMIUMACCESS** 45 (B,T) Joe Tizzard 8-10-12 **H Kimber (3)**

7-4 Trevada, 2-1 Ballinsker, 5-1 Tommie Beau, 13-2 Premiumaccess, 8-1 Forgot To Ask.

3.00 Maiden Hurdle (£4,955: 2m 6f) (9)
1 40- **BALA BROOK** 156 Joe Tizzard 5-11-4 **F Gingell (7)**
2 222-2 **BASFORD** 12 (P,BF) J Candlish 6-11-4 **J O'Neill Jr**
3 0P- **GETAWAY TOTHE WOOD** 83 Miss S Robinson 8-11-4 **J Best**
4 411P- **GREAT SCHEMA** 152 Syd Hosie 5-11-4 **M G Nolan**
5 005-6 **RUSSIES DREAM** 7 (T) C Down 7-11-4 **J Davies**
6 /PPP- **VENDANGE** 34 (P,T) J Tickle 5-11-4 **D Noonan**
7 21P4- **BELLA NOCHE** 39 (T) G Brown 5-10-11 **Isabelle Ryder (10)**
8 0/60- **ETOILE BRILLANTE** 198 (W,T) Alexandra Dunn 5-10-11 **C Ring (3)**
9 UPP-6 **KYLENOE DANCER** 30 P Henderson 5-10-11 **C Gethings**

1-10 Basford, 13-2 Bala Brook, 25-1 Bella Noche, 33-1 Great Schema, 50-1 Russies Dream, Kylenoe Dancer, 66-1 others.

3.30 Handicap Chase (£5,528: 2m 5f) (7)
1 266-6 **SWAPPED** 20 (P,BF) N Henderson 6-12-1 **N De Boinville**
2 222-1 **CHIEF BLACK ROBE** 9 F O'Brien 7-11-9(7ex) **Mr T Broughton (7)**
3 2220- **SEYMOUR PROMISE** 82 (P,T) Joe Tizzard 7-11-8 **H Kimber (3)**
4 006-3 **IMPREVU DU LARGE** 17 (T) P Nicholls 5-10-2 **T Buckley (3)**
5 P00-P **MOUNTAIN GREY** 14 Seamus Mullins 5-10-2 **J Best**
6 324P- **BROADOAK** 38 (T) Mrs F M Shaw 8-10-2 **D Noonan**
7 300-0 **JUSTSHORTOFABUBBLE** 9 (P,T) G Harris 6-10-2 **C Ring (3)**

8-11 Chief Black Robe, 9-2 Imprevu Du Large, 6-1 Swapped, 8-1 Seymour Promise, 20-1 Mountain Grey, Broadoak, 25-1 Justshortofabubble.

4.00 Handicap Hurdle (£5,528: 2m 6f) (7)
1 560-0 **ITACARE** 23 (B,T) D Pipe 6-12-0 **D Noonan**
2 362-P **HUNTING PERCIVAL** 10 Syd Hosie 8-12-0 **Mr G Hiscock (7)**
3 P023- **BLUFFMEIFYOUCAN** 83 (T,BF) Mrs S Gardner 6-11-11 **Lucy Gardner**
4 460-1 **SHERBORNE** 22 (T) Joe Tizzard 7-11-7 **F Gingell (7)**
5 2U0-2 **LOVED OUT** 4 (D) E Williams 6-11-0 **Isabel Williams (3)**
6 21FF- **MAROOCHI** 188 (CD) K Burke 6-10-12 **H Kimber (3)**
7 P00-2 **KAPITALISTE** 14 (T,V,C) Alexandra Dunn 7-10-10 **P Armson (3)**

7-4 Sherborne, 4-1 Loved Out, 5-1 Bluffmeifyoucan, Maroochi, 8-1 Kapitaliste, 10-1 Itacare, 20-1 Hunting Percival.

4.30 Open Hunters' Chase (£2,566: 2m 5f) (4)
1 U121- **ESPOIR DE TEILLEE** 37 (P,T,D) B Brookhouse 11-12-8 **Miss Fern O'Brien (5)**
2 4523- **DILIGENT** 58 (CD) Mrs K Sanderson 10-12-0 **Mr C Sprake (7)**
3 P/P4- **NO GETAWAY** 69 (P,T) R L Llewellyn 10-12-0 **S Clarke (7)**
4 FP2F- **TREACYS JIM** 46 Deborah Treneer 9-12-0 **Doubtful**

4-6 Espoir De Teillee, 7-4 Diligent, 8-1 No Getaway.

5.03 Handicap Hurdle (£5,528: 2m 2f 110yd) (14)
1 002-2 **CHARLIE MY BOY** 13 K Burke 6-12-0 **H Kimber (3)**
2 P5PP- **DAME PRESTIGE** 72 (H) Seamus Mullins 6-11-5 **D Sansom (3)**
3 440-5 **ZORAN** 16 E Lavelle 6-11-3 **T Bellamy**
4 50PF- **BALLYGOE** 82 (T) C Down 7-11-3 **J Davies**
5 03/3- **SHALOTT** 382 (T) G Brown 6-11-1 **Isabelle Ryder (10)**
6 P52-3 **IMPERIAL MEASURE** 22 E Williams 5-10-13 **Isabel Williams (3)**
7 54P0- **INSPECTOR LYNLEY** 155 N Mulholland 6-10-12 **B Carver**
8 245-0 **HILL STATION** 25 Dr R Newland 4-10-11 **S Twiston-Davies**
9 4530- **TESTFLIGHT** 40 Mrs S Gardner 6-10-6 **S Houlihan**
10 6000- **WELLWILLYA** 34 Mrs H Nelmes 5-10-2 **B Godfrey (3)**
11 P060- **BAY SAM BELLA** 38 Alexander Gibbons 8-10-2 **Mr J Jeavons (7)**
12 565-5 **ONLY FOOLS** 8 (H,T) D Pipe 4-10-2 **P Armson (3)**
13 UP60- **LADY AMY** 83 (W,H,T) Ella Pickard 6-10-2 **J Best**
14 0F40- **GALACTIC GLOW** 79 (H,T) J Tickle 6-10-2 **D Noonan**

5-2 Charlie My Boy, 4-1 Ballygoe, 9-2 Imperial Measure, 5-1 Shalott, 12-1 Zoran, Only Fools, 14-1 Hill Station, Inspector Lynley, Testflight.

Warwick
Rob Wright

5.40 Manintheshadows
6.10 Choirmaster
6.40 Guinness Affair
7.10 Craven Bay
7.40 Fenney Brook
8.10 Junior Massini
8.40 Jeudidee

Going: good, good to firm in places — **Racing TV**

5.40 Handicap Hurdle (£4,222: 3m 2f) (6)
1 1/1F- **MANINTHESHADOWS** 138 (P,D) Jonjo O'Neill 8-12-1 **Mr A J O'Neill (5)**
2 343-2 **NICKELSONTHEDIME** 18 (P,T,C) K Woollacott 9-11-10 **Mr J Newman**
3 320-5 **PREMIER D'TROICE** 14 (P,BF) Katy Price 9-11-9 **Mr Z Baker**
4 05D-2 **SANDALWOOD** 17 (P,T) P Nicholls 6-11-0 **Miss Olive Nicholls (5)**
5 5136/ **TOP MAN** 514 C Gordon 9-10-13 **Mr F Gordon (3)**
6 3U34- **STAY OUT OF COURT** 35 (P) J S Smith 12-10-5 **Miss Jessica Smith (7)**

2-1 Manintheshadows, 5-2 Nickelsonthedime, 3-1 Sandalwood, 7-1 Top Man, 8-1 Premier D'troice, 33-1 Stay Out Of Court.

6.10 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m) (3)
1 531-1 **DOUBLE CLICK** 22 (D) J Snowden 5-12-0 **G Sheehan**
2 3-42 **ALLIHIES** 7 (T) D Skelton 4-11-8 **T Durrell (5)**
3 005-2 **CHOIRMASTER** 20 (T) D McCain 4-10-10 **T Gillard**

6-4 Double Click, 2-1 Choirmaster, Allihies.

6.40 Handicap Chase (£5,281: 2m) (3)
1 352P- **STEPNEY CAUSEWAY** 51 (P,T) M Harris 6-12-0 **M Bastyan**
2 1115/ **GUINNESS AFFAIR** 601 (W,T,BF) J Snowden 7-11-6 **G Sheehan**
3 2P-P2 **MAGISTRATO** 8 (T) P Nicholls 5-11-2 **H Cobden**

13-8 Magistrato, 7-4 Stepney Causeway, 2-1 Guinness Affair.

7.10 Novices' Hurdle (£4,084: 2m 3f) (5)
1 551-3 **EVERYONESGAME** 23 (BF) C Longsdon 6-11-10 **Lilly Pinchin (3)**
2 4/11- **CRAVEN BAY** 367 (W,P,T) Mrs L Hill 7-11-3 **D Bass**
3 152-2 **JESSMAE** 30 Henry Oliver 6-11-3 **L Williams**
4 22-3F **GLOBAL FAMENGLORY** 10 (P,BF) D Skelton 7-10-10 **T Durrell (5)**
5 6 **THE SWEDE** 14 Harriet Brown 6-10-10 **S Quinlan (3)**

Evens Global Famenglory, 11-8 Everyonesgame, 10-1 Craven Bay, 12-1 Jessmae, 66-1 The Swede.

7.40 Handicap Hurdle (£4,489: 2m) (6)
1 1342- **LADY RESET** F6 (P,T,CD) D Pipe 7-12-0 **J Tudor**
2 1110- **POP THE CHAMPAGNE** F21 (T,D) F O'Brien 7-11-11 **P Brennan**
3 4P54- **HICONIC** 153 (T,D) A Hales 6-11-7 **K Woods**
4 522-4 **KARANNELLE** 16 (T,D) D Rees 8-11-5 **H Cobden**
5 P34-0 **PRIME TIME LADY** 22 (CD) M Rowley 6-11-4 **A Edwards**
6 0121- **FENNEY BROOK** 191 H Daly 7-10-12 **R Patrick**

9-4 Fenney Brook, 11-4 Pop The Champagne, 3-1 Lady Reset, 11-2 Karannelle, 12-1 Hiconic, 14-1 Prime Time Lady.

8.10 Handicap Chase (£4,225: 2m 4f) (5)
1 323-6 **FORTUNATE FRED** 22 (T) J Snowden 8-12-0 **G Sheehan**
2 /0P-2 **JUNIOR MASSINI** 18 (P) Sheila Lewis 8-10-2 **H Cobden**
3 6P-00 **CHEER'S DELBOY** 8 (B,T) Harriet Dickin 10-10-2 **B Poste**
4 2UP-U **FAIR TO DREAM** 10 S-J Davies 10-10-2 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**
5 00F-5 **MIX MASTER** 20 (T) Katy Price 9-10-2 **K Brogan**

4-7 Junior Massini, 15-8 Fortunate Fred, 20-1 Cheer's Delboy, 25-1 Fair To Dream, Mix Master.

8.40 Open Maiden NH Flat Race (£2,178: 2m) (4)
1 PP5U- **EXCLUSIVE GETAWAY** 40 O Greenall & J Guerriero 5-11-4 **T Wynne (5)**
2 **JEUDIDEE** K Bailey 4-10-12 **D Bass**
3 0-0 **MOON LADY** 22 N Henderson 5-10-11 **D Jacob**
4 **WHITEHALL FLYER** M Young 5-10-11 **C Hammond**

6-5 Jeudidee, 5-2 Exclusive Getaway, 3-1 Moon Lady, 10-1 Whitehall Flyer.

Course specialists

Beverley: Trainers C Lidster, 4 winners from 14 runners, 28.6%; M & D Easterby, 18 from 84, 21.4%; D O'Meara, 30 from 192, 15.6%. **Jockeys** T Marquand, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; Joanna Mason, 15 from 68, 22.1%.

Cartmel: Trainers B Haslam, 11 from 46, 23.9%; J Moffatt, 28 from 140, 20%; S England, 10 from 50, 20%. **Jockeys** Charlotte Jones, 23 from 78, 29.5%; A P Heskin, 3 from 11, 27.3%.

Hamilton Park: Trainers J Tate, 4 from 4, 100%; G Scott, 5 from 7, 71.4%; K A Ryan, 27 from 118, 22.9%. **Jockeys** Mark Winn, 3 from 13, 23.1%; P J McDonald, 13 from 58, 22.4%.

Newton Abbot: Trainers P Nicholls, 42 from 150, 28%; F O'Brien, 25 from 94, 26.6%; T George, 5 from 19, 26.3%. **Jockeys** L Harrison, 3 from 15, 20%; H Kimber, 12 from 66, 18.2%.

Warwick: Trainers Sheila Lewis, 6 from 20, 30%; P Nicholls, 10 from 37, 27%; D McCain, 5 from 21, 23.8%. **Jockeys** Mr J Newman, 3 from 7, 42.9%; H Cobden, 7 from 30, 23.3%.

Yesterday's racing results

Brighton
Going: firm (good to firm in places)

2.10 (5f 60yd) 1, **Alfred Cove** (Mollie Phillips, 2-1 fav); 2, I'm Mable (100-30); 3, Big Time Maybe (4-1). 7 ran. ½l, 1¼l. A W Carroll.

2.40 (7f 216yd) 1, **Thawg** (Andrea Atzeni, 11-1); 2, The Jackler (2-1); 3, Rebecca West (14-1). 5 ran. Nk, 3½l. M Botti.

3.10 (7f 216yd) 1, **Confils** (Andrea Atzeni, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Fieldsman (4-1); 3, Romanovich (2-1 jt-fav). 6 ran. 1l, 1½l. George Baker.

3.40 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, **Come On John** (Paddy Bradley, 11-2); 2, Letter Of The Law (4-1); 3, Cape Cornwall Rose (5-2 fav). 7 ran. 2½l, ¾l. M J Attwater.

4.10 (6f 210yd) 1, **Sir Winston** (Raul Da Silva, 100-30); 2, Rawyaan (15-8 fav); 3, Little Boy Blue (8-1). 7 ran. NR: Ideal Guest. 1¾l, ½l. R Varian.

4.40 (6f 210yd) 1, **Threebars** (Tyrese Cameron, 100-30 jt-fav); 2, Film Star (10-1); 3, Deed Pole (9-2). 8 ran. ½l, hd. R Hannon.

5.10 (5f 215yd) 1, **The Princes Poet** (Charles Bishop, 100-30); 2, Bobby On The Beat (7-1); 3, Bear To Dream (100-30). 6 ran. NR: Gnat Alley. 3½l, 1l. Eve Johnson Houghton.

Placepot: £80.70.
Quadpot: £11.90.

Leicester
Going: good to firm

1.55 (5f) 1, **Zabriskie Point** (Dane O'Neill, 18-1); 2, Gushing Gold (28-1); 3, Kingswood Flyer (12-1). 10 ran. NR: Vice Captain. 1l, 4¼l. C Hills.

2.30 (6f) 1, **Golden Mind** (Billy Garritty, 4-1); 2, Fusterlandia (8-1); 3, Impressive Act (8-13 fav). 10 ran. Nk, 4½l. R A Fahey.

3.00 (7f) 1, **Chorus Line** (W Buick, 11-2); 2, Torfrida (9-2); 3, Annie Law (7-2 fav). 7 ran. NR: Fools And Horses. Nk, 1½l. E A L Dunlop.

3.30 (1m 2f) 1, **Prophet's Dream** (Tom Marquand, 11-10 fav); 2, Tudor (3-1); 3, Croachill (6-1). 4 ran. NR: Whirlwind. Nk, 1¼l. Sir M Todd.

4.00 (7f) 1, **Manitou** (Hollie Doyle, 8-13 fav); 2, Motasaleeta (14-1); 3, South Dakota Sioux (12-1). 6 ran. NR: Montelusa. ¾l, 7½l. A Watson.

4.30 (6f) 1, **Miss Mai Tai** (R Coakley, 12-1); 2, Just Janet (11-1); 3, Musical Tribute (9-4). 9 ran. Nk, ns. J R Fanshawe.

5.05 (1m 2f) 1, **Gallimimus** (W Buick, 8-13 fav); 2, Churchella (20-1); 3, Khangai (14-1). 11 ran. 3¼l, nk. G Boughey.

Placepot: £617.50.
Quadpot: £19.30.

Lingfield Park
Going: good to firm (good in places)

5.40 (1m 2f) 1, **Shazam** (S M Levey, 15-2); 2, Denis Anthony (3-1); 3, Kamanika (11-4 fav). 12 ran. 1¼l, ¾l. K P De Foy.

6.10 (1m 2f) 1, **Richard P Smith** (Saffie Osborne, 11-2); 2, Eklil (9-2); 3, Balgair (6-1). 6 ran. NR: Glory Nights. Hd, ½l. E A L Dunlop.

6.40 (1m 1f) 1, **Chriszoff** (Hector Crouch, 4-9 fav); 2, Quietness (16-1); 3, Hill Filly (7-2). 8 ran. ½l, 4l. A Watson.

7.10 (7f) 1, **Cinderella's Dream** (James Doyle, 4-5 fav); 2, Shadan Joy (9-2); 3, Barika (22-1). 6 ran. Nk, 3¼l. C Appleby.

7.40 (7f) 1, **King Cabo** (Cieren Fallon, 11-2); 2, Revolutionary Man (5-2 fav); 3, Triggered (7-2). 7 ran. Hd, 3½l. L A Dace.

8.10 (6f) 1, **Girl Magic** (Rowan Scott, 9-2); 2, Raven's Up (11-1); 3, Class Member (12-1). 9 ran. 1l, 2l. Alice Haynes.

8.45 (6f) 1, **Port Noir** (F Norton, 11-2); 2, Mr Fayez (13-2); 3, Yimou (9-2). 8 ran. NR: Haveagobeau. ½l, nk. R Stephens.

Placepot: £81.70. **Quadpot: £13.20.**

Nottingham
Going: good to firm

6.25 (1m 2f 50yd) 1, **Longuerue** (George Eddery, 9-1); 2, Ivy Avenue (6-4); 3, Nine Elms (6-5 fav). 5 ran. NR: Teekana. ns, ½l. R Eddery.

6.55 (6f 18yd) 1, **Havana Pusey** (J Mitchell, 5-2); 2, Catwalk Model (6-1); 3, Mother Mary (7-2). 7 ran. NR: Ali Jewels, Boujee Gold. 1¾l, 5l. J Gallagher.

7.25 (6f 18yd) 1, **Mereside Diva** (David Probert, 100-30 jt-fav); 2, Protest Rally (9-2); 3, Furnicoe (28-1). 10 ran. 1½l, hd. T D Barron.

7.55 (5f 8yd) 1, **Majeski Man** (P Hanagan, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Lipsink (11-2); 3, Blind Beggar (9-4 jt-fav). 5 ran. ¾l, 4¾l. P T Midgley.

8.25 (1m 75yd) 1, **Bobby Dassler** (Daniel Muscutt, 100-30); 2, Silver Screen (6-1); 3, Ardbraccan (12-1). 11 ran. ¾l, 1l. T Ward.

9.00 (1m 6f) 1, **Pound Off You** (Joanna Mason, 100-30); 2, Manyana (9-2); 3, Sicario (11-4). 6 ran. 1l, 1½l. G Boanas.

Jackpot: £10,000.00 — part won. Pool of £11,343.30 carried forward to Cartmel today.

Placepot: £388.90. **Quadpot: £64.40.**

Redcar
Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.20 (5f 217yd) 1, **Onigiri** (N Callan, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Geologist (15-2); 3, Mapmaker (5-1). 12 ran. NR: Thursday's Child. Nk, 1½l. M Botti.

2.50 (1m 5f 218yd) 1, **Pledgeofallegiance** (L Morris, 9-2); 2, Fair Dinkum (9-4 fav); 3, Book Of Tales (13-2). 10 ran. 2¼l, 3¾l. Sir Mark Prescott.

3.20 (1m 2f 1yd) 1, **Burglar** (R Havlin, 5-2); 2, Spectacular Style (15-2); 3, Crystal Mariner (11-8 fav). 9 ran. NR: Harittondreamboy. 2l, ns. J & T Gosden.

3.50 (1m 2f 1yd) 1, **Spring Fever** (R Havlin, 5-2); 2, Zarga (15-8 fav); 3, Khinjani (12-1). 8 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. J & T Gosden.

4.20 (7f) 1, **Roaring Ralph** (Connor Beasley, 9-2); 2, Platinum Girl (Evens fav); 3, Shine's Ambition (9-1). 8 ran. NR: Powdering. 4¾l, ½l. M Dods.

4.55 (7f 219yd) 1, **Makalu** (J P Sullivan, 8-1); 2, Martin's Brig (6-1); 3, Kodebreaker (4-1). 11 ran. Nk, ¾l. Mrs R Carr.

5.25 (5f 217yd) 1, **Hurt You Never** (Mr Jack Nicholls, 5-1); 2, Spartan Fighter (100-30); 3, Merry Secret (9-1). 9 ran. NR: Enderman. 5l, nk. Adrian Nicholls.

Placepot: £11.10.
Quadpot: £3.80.

Medvedev is stunned by world No 172

T Seyboth Wild (Bra)	7^7	6^6	2	6	6
D Medvedev (Russ, No 2)	6^5	7^8	6	3	4

Stuart Fraser
Tennis Correspondent, Paris

Already considered the most unpredictable men's singles draw at Roland Garros for close to 20 years, the door edged open further yesterday when the No 2 seed, Daniil Medvedev, was knocked out by a Brazilian qualifier ranked No 172 in the world.

A significant hurdle was removed before the tournament when Rafael Nadal, the 14-times singles champion, withdrew because of a hip injury, and now there are no grand-slam champions remaining in the bottom half of the draw after the shock exit of the 2021 US Open winner Medvedev, who won the Italian Open a fortnight ago.

A first-round match against Thiago Seyboth Wild had looked comfortable on paper, but Medvedev was out of sorts in the latter stages. He threw away a lead to go down 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (6-8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 and become the first top-two seed to lose in the first round at Roland Garros since Pete Sampras was beaten by Mark Philippoussis in 2000.

Medvedev showed signs of frustration with the Court Philippe-Chatrier crowd at times. He was seen telling booing spectators to be quiet during a debate with the umpire over a ball mark on the clay, and bizarrely waved his little finger in the air when he walked towards the net after the match.

"I just told them to shut up, and that's it," Medvedev said. "I was discussing [the ball mark] with another person, not with them, so they should shut up at this moment. Other than that, everything was fine."

Asked if he feared more crowd negativity at Wimbledon, where he will return in July for the first time since last year's ban of Russian players, Medvedev replied: "We cannot control it. If people decide to be harsh, it is what it is. If they're going to be kind, it's great also."

Little was known by the wider public of Seyboth Wild until yesterday. The 23-year-old won the 2018 junior US Open but he has struggled to make the transition to the professional tour. He has never reached the world's top 100 and had not won a match on the main ATP Tour for 15 months.

In only his second main-draw appearance at a grand-slam event, Seyboth Wild's breakthrough has come on the court on which his compatriot Gustavo Kuerten made his name by winning the first of three French Open titles in 1997. It was exactly 26 years to the day since Kuerten defeated Thomas Muster in a memorable five-set third-round match.

It looked as if Seyboth Wild was going to be overcome by tension towards the end, twice throwing away a break of serve in the deciding set. But he held his nerve, claiming a third break for 4-3, then sealing the best victory of his life in style with a forehand down the line for his 69th winner over the course of four hours and 15 minutes.

"Guga [Kuerten] in Brazil is an idol for everyone," Seyboth Wild said. "His legacy in this tournament is really something special. Just need to take that energy from him and dream big."

Seyboth Wild refused to discuss allegations of domestic abuse lodged by his ex-girlfriend in 2021. He was investigated by Brazilian police but there has been no resolution to the case.

Casper Ruud, last year's runner-up from Norway, is now the highest-ranked seed remaining in the bottom half of the draw, at No 4. As it stands the top half is far stronger with Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic on course to meet in the semi-finals.

One of the most promising young talents in the women's game continues to impress. Mirra Andreeva, the 16-year-old who is playing as a neutral here because of her Russian nationality, comfortably defeated Alison Riske-Armitraj, the world No 85 from the United States, 6-2, 6-1 in 56 minutes. Iga Swiatek, the defending champion from Poland, was a break down against Spain's Cristina Bucsa but wrested back control of the rallies for a 6-4, 6-0 win.

Meanwhile, Venus Williams has announced that she will compete in the grass-court season. The American veteran, who turns 43 next month, is likely to receive a Wimbledon wild card.

ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOULAT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Seyboth Wild, the world No 172, channelled the spirit of fellow Brazilian Kuerten to pull off an upset

Today's Roland Garros highlights

Jessica Pegula vs Camila Giorgi, *Court Philippe Chatrier, 10.45am UK*
No 3 seed from US faces an Italian renowned for upsets

Carlos Alcaraz vs Taro Daniel *Court Philippe Chatrier — approx 4pm*
The top seed from Spain makes his first appearance on the main stadium court

Cameron Norrie vs Lucas Pouille *Court Suzanne-Lenglen — approx 4.30pm*
Another home opponent for British No 1

Novak Djokovic vs Marton Fucsovics - *Court Philippe Chatrier — 7.15pm*
Serbian is six wins from grand-slam titles record

Norrie: I've not spoken to Novak

Stuart Fraser

Cameron Norrie revealed that he had not spoken to Novak Djokovic after their row in Rome a fortnight ago but the British No 1 insisted that he would not be softening his competitive streak any time soon.

Norrie, the last remaining Briton in the singles draw at Roland Garros, drew criticism from Djokovic a fortnight ago at the Italian Open during a tense fourth-round match in which Norrie unintentionally smashed a ball into the world No 1's legs during an exchange at the net.

Despite winning the match 6-3, 6-4, Djokovic was unusually unsettled throughout and accused Norrie afterwards of "bending my head" through a series of mental games that also included loud shouts of "Come on!" and a medical timeout shortly before the 22-times grand-slam champion was about to serve for victory.

"I didn't think I was in his face at all," Norrie, 27, said. "I think if anyone knows me, I'm pretty vocal in some matches. It was a regular tennis match for me.

"I was feeling my hip a little bit and I took the medical timeout. It is within the rules. I competed as hard as I could and I went toe-to-toe with him and there was a lot of good stuff in that second set. At the end of the day, he won the match. For me, that's all that matters and it was a good match to play before the French Open."

Addressing the moment in which he hit Djokovic in the legs with an overhead smash midway through the second set, Norrie insisted that he did not realise that his opponent had turned his back to the net while he was focused on the ball coming down from above.

"I apologised straight away and I didn't see him," Norrie said. "I looked up and hit the ball down low. I didn't see him turn and concede the point.

"I wanted to win. It was one of those matches where he's one of the best players in the world and I wanted to play my best and compete as hard as I could."

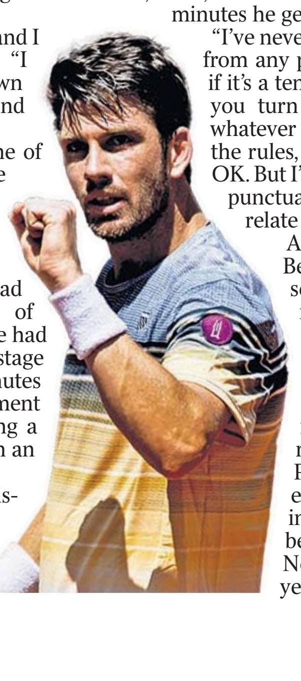
Norrie admitted that he had questioned the lateness of Djokovic before the match. He had been left waiting in a backstage corridor for more than ten minutes while Djokovic received treatment on his shoulder after tweaking a muscle during his warm-up on an outside court.

"They [tournament organisers] told me that it was within the rules," Norrie said. "He wanted some more time on the physio bed and the match was scheduled for 11am. We walked out maybe at 11.12, 11.13.

"I don't think he [Djokovic] saw any problem with that. He never said anything to me and he never apologised. I asked, 'Was that OK to do that?' They said, 'Yeah, it is within the rules. After 15 minutes he gets defaulted.'

"I've never seen that before from any player. Regardless if it's a tennis match or not, you turn up on time for whatever it is. I didn't know the rules, but I do now. It's OK. But I'm usually a pretty punctual guy. I can't really relate to it too much."

After overcoming Benoît Paire in five sets in the first round, Norrie returns to Court Suzanne-Lenglen today to face another Frenchman in the second round. Lucas Pouille, the qualifier, is ranked No 675 in the world after being as high as No 10 only five years ago.



Norrie is in second round action against Pouille at the French Open today

Kosovo tennis chiefs want 'provocative' Djokovic fined

Stuart Fraser

The president of the Kosovo Tennis Federation (KTF) has called for Novak Djokovic to be fined by tennis chiefs after accusing the Serbian of "continually provoking Kosovo".

Djokovic sparked a political backlash on Monday by writing "Kosovo is the heart of Serbia, stop the violence" on a television camera lens after his first-round victory at Roland Garros. It came on the same day that about 30 Nato peacekeeping soldiers defending town halls in northern Kosovo were injured in clashes with Serbian protesters.

The French Tennis Federation (FTF) insisted yesterday that no action would be taken as there are "no official grand slam rules on what players can or cannot say".

However, the KTF is now calling for the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and ATP Tour to intervene.

"We will send an official request for Djokovic to be charged, to have a fine," Jeton Hadergjonaj, the president of the KTF, said. "It's not the first time that Djokovic is doing this. He's continually provoking Kosovo."

Hadergjonaj referenced an incident in which Djokovic raised his fist in support of basketball fans chanting "Kosovo is Serbia" during a match he attended in Belgrade in April. "Kosovo is an independent country recognised by the ITF, Tennis Europe and the international community," Hadergjonaj said. "But he continuously attacks us every time he can do it. In a basketball match in Belgrade one month ago, all the people in the stadium were chanting 'Kosovo is Serbia'. He was not shouting but he was doing the signs with his hand supporting that."

Kosovo is a largely ethnic Albanian-populated territory that declared independence from Serbia in 2008, nine years after a conflict in Kosovo claimed more than 10,000 lives and left more than one million people homeless. Its statehood is recognised by about 100 countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States and France. Serbia has no formal control but still considers it part of the nation.

Hadergjonaj believes Djokovic risks stirring up further tension between Kosovo and Serbia through such a visible political statement. Serbia's president, Aleksandar Vucic, put his army on the highest level of combat alert on Monday. "Potentially it will inflame it," Hadergjonaj said.

Djokovic, who plays Hungary's Marton Fucsovics today, told Serbian reporters on Monday that the gesture was "the least I could do".

'I'll miss García at Ryder Cup'

Golf
Rick Broadbent

Jon Rahm says it is sad that politics is affecting this year's Ryder Cup and that he will miss Sergio García at the biennial clash in Rome in September.

García, the event's record points-scorer, said last week that he had sought clarity from Luke Donald, the Europe captain, over his Ryder Cup hopes and "he pretty much told me I had no chance". That was presumably before he took his decision to resign from the DP World Tour after LIV players were hit with £100,000 fines for playing in the first Saudi-backed event without being granted conflicting events releases.

Facing increasing fines for playing on the LIV circuit in the future, as well as backdated ones for other events already played, García, Ian Poulter and Lee Westwood all resigned. García was the only one of 16 LIV players not to pay his £100,000 by the deadline, prompting the Tour to threaten legal action.

Rahm, who had a 100 per cent record when partnering his Spanish compatriot at the most recent Ryder Cup in 2021, had a pragmatic view as he spoke before this week's Memorial Tournament in Florida.

"I'm going to miss him," Rahm said. "We had a great partnership at Whistling Straits. It's a little sad to me that politics have gotten in the way of such a beautiful event. It's the best Europeans against the best Americans, period. And whatever is going on, who is playing LIV and who is not playing LIV shouldn't matter. It's whoever is best suited to represent the European side."

Donald has said last month's arbitration decision to uphold DP World Tour sanctions has given him some clarity, but it is more complicated for the US as Brooks Koepka, now a LIV player, is second in the automatic qualifying places on the back of winning the US PGA Championship.

Neither captain has publicly ruled out including LIV players among their six picks, although Zach Johnson, the US captain, has said that he has no intention of travelling to a LIV event to watch players.

Rahm clearly believes that the best players should be at the Ryder Cup. García, now 43 and a Ryder Cup player at 19, was runner-up at last month's LIV event in Singapore but missed the cut at the Masters.

"I have a hard time to believe that the best player Europe has ever had, the most successful player Europe has had on the Ryder Cup, isn't fit to be on the team," Rahm said. "It's unfortunate. I will miss him, but with that said, I want to be hopeful — there's a couple of Spanish guys playing really good right now so hopefully they can join me on the team." Rahm was also clear when it came to the PGA Tour's plan not to have a cut at designated events. Jack Nicklaus, who hosts the Memorial, wants one for his tournament, and Rahm would like to see that replicated across the board. "I've gone back and forth on this issue," he said. "I at first was an advocate for no cut and the more time has gone by I've become an advocate for a cut.

"You earn your way into the weekend and then you earn that win. It's a part I enjoy and I experienced recently at the PGA [Championship]. I mean, that Friday had a different feel when I was fighting to make the cut. It's a different type of pressure and you never know what playing good on a Friday to make the cut might ignite towards the weekend. It's a part of the history. If that went away, Tiger making 140-something cuts in a row wouldn't have the same significance."

ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES



Rahm and Garcia were a formidable pairing in the last Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits in 2021. The Spanish duo won all three of the matches they played together

Wiegman to make call on Mead for World Cup

Women's football
Molly Hudson

Sarina Wiegman will name her 23-player England squad for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand today, with Beth Mead, the 2022 Ballon d'Or runner-up, a serious doubt for selection.

Only 50 days before the World Cup starts, Wiegman must decide whether to gamble on the fitness of Mead, who ruptured her anterior cruciate ligament while playing for Arsenal in November. Mead said this month that she was likely to miss out despite being ahead of schedule in her recovery.

Wiegman will make the official announcement at Boldmere St Michaels FC, a grassroots club, but it is understood that she plans to call players individually earlier in the day to inform them of her decision.

Mead, 28, is likely to miss out, but there is more optimism around the defenders Millie Bright and Lucy Bronze, who have both had minor knee surgeries. Bronze has fully recovered and is expected to play in the Champions League final for Barcelona against Wolfsburg on Saturday.

Bright missed the end of the domestic season with Chelsea and is not yet fully fit but, given the absence of the injured Leah Williamson, Wiegman is likely to name her in the squad and continue her recovery in the training camp, which begins on June 19.

Steph Houghton, the former England captain, is set to miss out despite the injury crisis, having disagreed with Wiegman's decision not to select her for the games against Brazil and Australia in April.

FA's 12-point deductions for serious misconduct

Grassroots teams guilty of repeated serious misconduct could be deducted up to 12 points under new FA rules.

The move, which has been approved by the Football Regulatory Authority and ratified by the FA Council, follows feedback suggesting "unacceptable" player behaviour is a "significant issue". Deductions for offences such as discrimination, assault or attempted assault, and physical contact or attempted physical contact against a match official, will range from three to 12 points.

Irish owner backtracks on pay promise

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Times revealed yesterday that the RFU was prepared to grant an extension on two conditions: that the buyers supplied all the key documentation first requested five months ago, including proof of funds, and that player and staff salaries would be paid on time.

London Irish employees were told at lunchtime yesterday that Crossan, who owns the club via his company Powerday, would cover the £500,000 payroll for May in full, with the payment taking place today, giving hope of a reprieve for the debt-laden club. Sources said players reacted with a sense of "cautious optimism".

The caution was well placed. The club's future was thrust back into uncertainty by dinnertime, when the offer of full salaries was retracted. It is understood that players were called to an emergency meeting at 15 minutes' notice last night and given an ultimatum. They were asked to accept 50 per cent of their May salaries and not to submit breach-of-contract letters, with a promise that the rest would be covered in due course by the new owners. It is understood the players were told that if they refused to comply, there would be no pay and the club would go under.

Some players already have club deals lined up elsewhere but many do not and the indications last night were that the squad was leaning towards accepting the deal.

The RFU's financial viability group met last night to discuss whether to extend the deadline, only to learn that London Irish were already trying to change the conditions. The matter will be taken to the RFU board today for a final decision.

The proposed buyers have already missed numerous deadlines to inform the RFU exactly who is behind the takeover bid and where the money is coming from.

The RFU is desperate to give the London Irish takeover a chance to succeed, having already seen Worcester Warriors and Wasps disappear from the English league system this season.

But the board must decide how much credence to give this latest proposal from London Irish, bearing in mind it comes with no guarantee that a deal will be completed within the next fortnight or that the remaining 50 per cent of employee salaries will be paid.

Haouas given one-year jail sentence for hitting his wife

Rugby union

The France prop Mohamed Haouas has been handed a one-year jail sentence for hitting his wife in public.

Haouas, 29, who won 16 caps, told a court that he had lost control when he saw his wife smoking at the shopping centre where she worked after telling him that she had given up.



"She has the right to smoke…but the problem is that she lied to me…and I said to myself that if she can lie about the cigarette, she could lie about other things," he told the court in Montpellier.

Haouas, inset, will remain free while he launches an appeal, or he could wear an electronic tag, but the incident casts doubt on his rugby future.

Haouas had been due to leave Montpellier and join Top 14 rivals Clermont, but after the verdict his intended club released a statement saying Haouas "will not be able to wear the colours" of Clermont. "By his behaviour, Mohamed Haouas is totally opposed to our identity and our convictions," the Clermont statement read.

We're to blame for Southampton relegation admit the club's owners

In an exclusive interview with **Alyson Rudd**, the club's hierarchy own up to being too distant and bad at recruitment

I meet the three men who own Southampton in what is about to become their new shared office at the club's impressive training ground. They have had a few weeks longer to dwell on what went wrong this past season than their counterparts at Leeds United and Leicester City, and one clear conclusion they have drawn is that they should have spent more time at the club.

Rasmus Ankersen and Henrik Kraft are the co-founders of Sport Republic, which bought Southampton in January 2022 with the financial backing of Dragan Solak, a Serbian businessman.

"We were not close enough to understand what was really going on," Ankersen says.

Solak adds: "That's a major lesson for us. We acted like a parent who is sending money to their kid but not sending their love and attention. It never works and it didn't work in our case as well. That's why we are going to be close, to show support, to know what is going on, and knowing exactly what the club needs. We thought a huge amount of financial support would resolve a lot but it didn't really."

Kraft says: "We also learnt that investment by itself does not buy you success in a football club. We invested quite heavily. There was significant net transfer spend both in the summer and again in January, but if you don't get the team aspect right, then even if you've bought a lot of high-quality individual players that doesn't necessarily make a team. That is a valuable lesson, we have to get the team right."



Ankersen, left, and Kraft know where they went wrong

There have been, as a consequence, a raft of executive changes, including Solak, a self-made businessman, becoming the chairman of Sport Republic. Solak had assumed he would be a silent investor "coming to a few games and enjoying some of them" but now he will help with strategy and give Kraft the space to become, in the long term, the chairman of Southampton.

"When we were relegated," Solak says, "I thought it was important we showed the people at the club and the supporters that we are going nowhere. If anything, we will be here more than before."

From his distant vantage point Solak could not work out why the players "sometimes did not have enough heart, it did not look like a synchronised effort".

He wondered if there was a psychological problem. "We know we have great players, but they don't show that in the games," he says. "Some answers we got from the club were, 'Don't worry, it will be better.'

"We would now like to know more about the life of the club and to be supportive to enable them to be the best possible. We were not failed by the people in the club, I failed them. I should have been closer to everything." From now on he will be, as he puts it, "part of the family".

Supporters had witnessed what began as a promising takeover gradually become dysfunctional in terms of results. The owners refute that they in any way briefed against Ralph Hasenhüttl, who was sacked in November. They backed the Austrian in the summer of 2022, having enjoyed a short honeymoon period up until the previous March.

"It became clear it wasn't working and then there was the unique situation of the World Cup coming up and there was speculation and negativity," Kraft says. "It wasn't a foregone conclusion. We wanted him to be successful, why wouldn't we?"



> We didn't see Nathan Jones not being able to handle the pressure at Premier League level

"I personally like the guy, we play golf together," Solak says. "He lost the confidence in being able to turn things around."

Nathan Jones proved a spectacular disappointment as Hasenhüttl's replacement.

"When we appointed Nathan it was based on what we needed to improve to stay in the Premier League," Ankersen says.

"We had stopped being aggressive, being on the front foot, we had problems with set pieces and Nathan had proven he had been able to instil that in a team [Luton Town] that was in the Championship, but which has now been promoted. It was not to do with his character, he's a great guy, he's hungry."

"We have to admit we didn't see him not being able to handle the media pressure at Premier League level," Solak says. "If he could have been more calm and calculated after the games he would have stayed longer.

"Him being too honest and losing it a little bit in front of the cameras turned the fans against him. He definitely didn't do what we wanted, but it was not too bad. He was the guy who stopped Pep Guardiola [after victory over Manchester City in the League Cup] having the chance of a Quadruple."

Much criticism was aimed at the club for buying young players with no Premier League experience in January. "Everyone wants a proven Premier League striker, they are hard to find," Ankersen says. "January is a hard window."

Ankersen admits "we didn't get the balance right", but points out that Carlos Alcaraz was particularly productive in spite of playing only half a season. "To some extent the young players were carrying the team," he says.

Will they try to blitz the Championship or work their way organically through the challenges? "We would like to do it organically and then blitz," Solak says with a laugh.

They will need the right manager and the recommendation of Jason Wilcox, the new director of football recruited from Manchester City in January, will hold the most weight. The successor to Rubén Sellés will be in situ by the time the team return for pre-season training at the end of June.

"I just thought it's going to be great fun," Solak says of his motivation. "I thought I was going to be a passive investor but as I become more active, I love it. In the Championship I might have more happy weekends."

Foden: I look sharp again

Paul Hirst

Phil Foden hopes that he has put himself in contention to start the FA Cup final against Manchester United after returning from injury to play his part in the thrilling end to Manchester City's season.

In March he was diagnosed with appendicitis but returned to action five weeks ago and has started the three games that City have played since they won the Premier League.

"I came back a lot quicker than expected," Foden said. "I thought it was going to be a long process. I healed quickly and anyway, I was trying to push it as soon as possible."

Foden's progress this season was also hampered by a niggling foot injury that he had at the start of March. Despite this, he has still scored 15 goals in 46 appearances this season.

Asked whether he thought that he had played himself into contention for Wembley, Foden said: "Yes. I've not been used to sitting around for so long not doing anything so it took a while to get my fitness back. Now I've got that back and I am looking sharp again."

Cup final injury blow for United as Martial ruled out

Manchester United have suffered a blow before the FA Cup final with Anthony Martial being ruled out of the match against Manchester City with a hamstring injury.

Martial suffered the injury towards the end of United's 2-1 victory over Fulham on Sunday, with scans revealing that the 27-year-old France striker tore the muscle and will not be able to feature in the match at Wembley on Saturday.

His absence is bad news for Erik ten Hag, the United manager, who is looking to scupper City's chances of doing the Treble.

Brentford close to signing £11m goalkeeper Flekken

Brentford are on the verge of signing the Freiburg goalkeeper Mark Flekken, which should pave the way for the departure of David Raya, probably to Tottenham Hotspur (writes Gary Jacob).

The 6ft 4in Flekken, 29, who is expected to cost about £11 million, kept 13 clean sheets this season. He said: "I followed English football from a young age. It is a dream that I'm about to realise."

Raya has a year left on his contract and is seen by Tottenham as a potential replacement for Hugo Lloris.

Schmadtke is appointed Liverpool sporting director

Liverpool have appointed Jörg Schmadtke as the club's sporting director on a short-term contract during a pivotal transfer window.

There is provision for the German to extend the arrangement but, as it stands, there is no longer-term commitment to the 59-year-old, who has stepped out of retirement to help his compatriot Jürgen Klopp.

The situation is not ideal, with Liverpool seeking strategic signings to reassert themselves next season after a disappointing campaign in which they failed to secure qualification for the Champions League.

‘Do you feel sexy?’ Odd questions, touchline rants, pizza and Lasso

SNAPSHOTS OF SEASON

Times writers share their most striking moments from a campaign full of drama, emotion and nostalgia

THE HANDSHAKE

As it turned out, neither coach would last the season, and so much has happened since that it faintly boggles the mind to realise that Thomas Tuchel and Antonio Conte’s epic rumpus in the technical area took place only nine months ago.

Both sets of coaching staff had been on edge throughout an absorbing 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge, and when the head coaches came together at the final whistle, the Premier League had one of its great moments of angry operetta.

The details will live long in the memory: the look of molten horror on Conte’s face as Tuchel refused to release the clasp; the sight of both managers drawing themselves up to their full height, with Conte’s expensively restored tonsure tenderly nuzzling the prow of Tuchel’s baseball cap; the vast entourages of serious-faced athleisure-clad men trying to separate their warring masters; the way both managers were absolutely buzzing in the post-match press conference.

Let’s be honest, we all need round two. Borussia Dortmund, you know what to do.

James Gheerbrant

DO YOU THINK I’M SEXY?

Before every media conference at Premier League clubs, a press officer will prepare the manager for questions they are likely to face. (Ah, the authenticity of it all.) Graham Potter’s first at Chelsea’s Cobham training base would have been fairly straightforward: his lack of experience at the top level, being convinced by the club’s owners, the reputation of Chelsea as a hire-fire club and whether this was a gamble to his career, and so on. All very predictable.

What Potter — and everyone else in the room — had not been expecting came from one reporter with a reputation for brilliantly left-field questions.

After some justifiable context that was quickly forgotten, the zinger came: “Do you feel sexy?” they asked.

Potter, below, was, unsurprisingly, stumped. Blood rushed to his face. I half-expected a wigged-up, leopard-print Rod Stewart impersonator to come marching in. Owing to the amount of laughter during the subsequent exchanges, the dictaphones on the desk could only pick up one Potter quote: “It’s getting very hot in here.”

Tom Roddy

KEPA’S GREATEST DAY

The way we talk about football, you’d think it was a game of cold, hard, ironclad certainties, of players who are either cut out for it or simply not good enough.

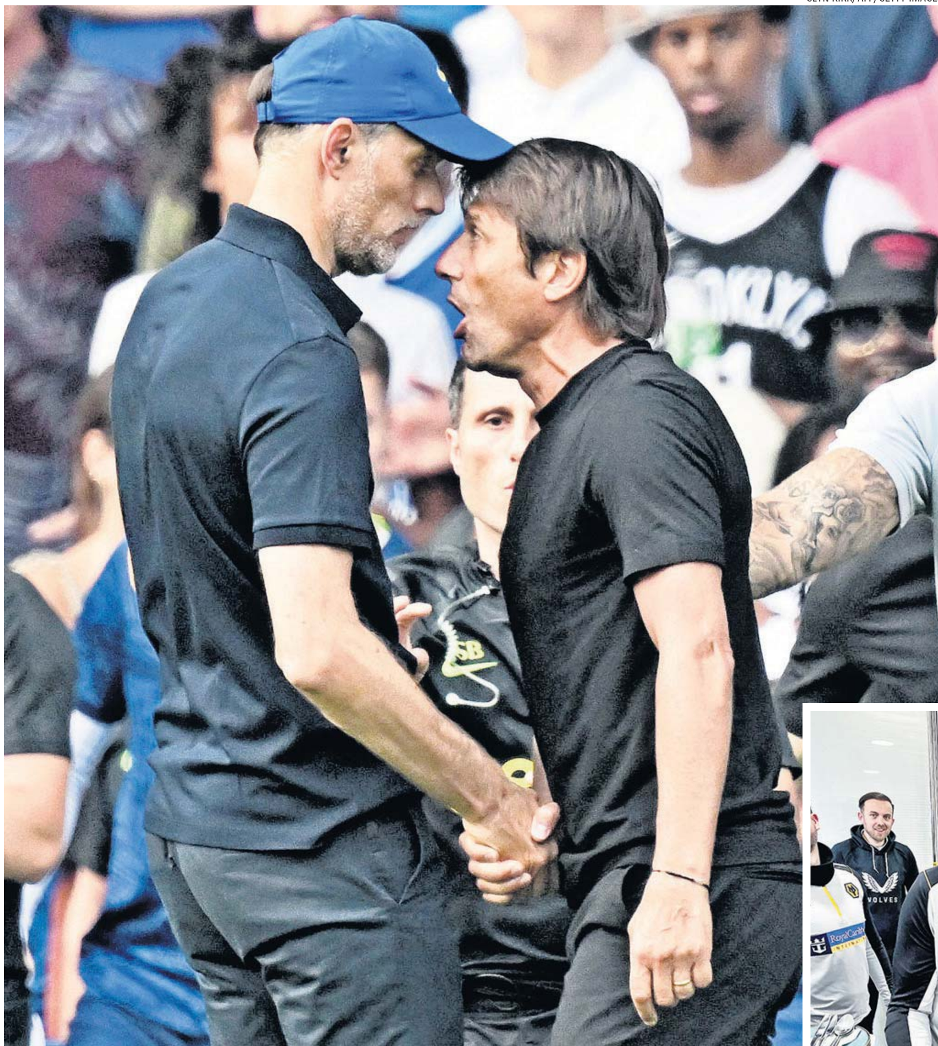
In reality, it’s a much stranger, more mutable thing than that, made from human clay. One of the most unexpected stories of the season was the resurgence of Kepa Arrizabalaga: a pitiably error-prone figure for much of his Chelsea career, given a chance by Graham Potter, he suddenly morphed into one of the league’s best goalkeepers.



Against Aston Villa, back in October, he had a miraculous game, making several amazing saves. The sight of him soaking up the glory after the final whistle, basking in the applause of the crowd, walking off long after everyone else had left with Potter’s arm around his shoulders, was one of the most poignant images of the season, and it was hard not to feel a little warmed by his long-awaited moment in the sun.

James Gheerbrant

GLYN KIRK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





Tuchel and Conte go head to head at Stamford Bridge in one of the most dramatic moments of the season. Right, Lopetegui provides pizza after a Wolves clean sheet

EVEN OPPOSITION PLAYERS ADMIRE BRIGHTON

Brighton & Hove Albion became the team everyone loves to watch, a sentiment that even extended to opposition players.

Adam Webster, the Brighton defender, revealed that while in the midst of being picked apart by Roberto De Zerbi team’s intensity, those facing the south coast club will find a moment during the encounter to deliver a compliment.

“Every team we play, no matter who it is, they always praise us on the pitch if there’s a stoppage in the game or whatever,” Webster said after Brighton’s victory over Manchester United at the Amex. [Anthony] Martial was saying to me how well we play. [Raheem] Sterling and [Conor] Gallagher at Chelsea did it a couple of weeks back. We were 1-0 down or 1-1 at the time and Sterling was saying we should have been 5-1 up. It shows the work we’re doing and the way the manager has us playing is amazing.”

Alyson Rudd

STILL A WALK TO SAVOUR

One of the best parts of watching Brentford at home, if you live in Richmond, is the walk across Kew Bridge and down Kew Road, mingling with other fans, overhearing their conversations, the sense of a group united in their devotion to a team that continues to defy expectation. Many feared the club would lose something indefinable in the move from Griffin Park and it is certainly true that the new stadium, on Lionel Road, doesn’t have the history (let alone the four pubs at each corner). But it has wonderful stewards, an impressive atmosphere and great fans. It is a snapshot of what football ought to be.

Matthew Syed

BILLING’S MID-MATCH REQUEST

Bournemouth’s Philip Billing revealed that he asks to swap shirts mid-match. “It’s a quick thing,” the Dane said. “No one has ever said no.”

As his team lined up on the edge of the area after Liverpool had been awarded a penalty at the Vitality Stadium, he took the opportunity to make a request. “I was ready to run in, but the referee saw something so I turned to Bobby [Firmino] and said: ‘Can I have your shirt?’ and then Mo Salah’s taken the penalty and put it wide and I thought: ‘Happy days.’”

Alyson Rudd

TED LASSO IS IN THE BUILDING

Realising Ted Lasso was just a few seats away from me at the Arsenal-Spurs game. I mean, what was he doing there? It’s not as if either north London side had a game against Richmond FC pending. And where was Coach Beard? For all Lasso’s qualities as a man-manager/psychologist, no one ever credited him with the game intelligence to read a match without the back-up of Beard or turncoat Nate. Unsettling.

Owen Slot

PIZZA FOR EVERYONE!

Julen Lopetegui proved that he is a man who sticks to his word and isn’t afraid to honour a bet after he brought pizzas into a press conference. Wolverhampton Wanderers’ inability to keep a clean sheet was harming their chances of survival, so the Spaniard promised his players he would take them for a squad meal each time they did so.

When Lopetegui revealed that to the press in February, it was jokingly suggested by the media that they should be rewarded too. With a smile on his face he agreed and before their away game against Newcastle United in March, having kept a clean sheet against Tottenham Hotspur in the previous fixture, the Wolves head coach strolled into the press room at the club’s Compton Park training base armed with three pizzas. With more clean sheets to follow, against Chelsea, Brentford, Crystal Palace and Aston Villa, the team meals continued, as did the takeaway pizza.

Charlotte Duncker

CONTE’S LAST STAND

It lasted six minutes, an apoplectic Conte taking down the players, the owner, the club and the media before he was finished.

“They can change managers but the situation cannot change,” Conte said. He was sacked nine days later.

Tom Allnutt

A NEW JACK GREALISH

The best moment of an outstanding season for Jack Grealish came in the 4-1 win over Liverpool in April. With Liverpool 1-0 up, Mohamed Salah ran through on the counterattack after a City corner broke down. All Salah had to do was square to the unmarked Diogo Jota, but Grealish had other ideas, sprinting back 50 yards to block Salah’s pass. Then he ran back into his position on the left wing and set up Julián Álvarez for the equaliser with City’s next attack.

Paul Hirst

45 SECONDS IN THE LIFE OF A CHELSEA FAN

Perched in the crowd at Stamford Bridge for Frank Lampard’s first home game as interim head coach. Chap sits down behind me as the match is about to kick off. “I really fancy us to play well today,” he tells his friend. Same guy, roughly 45 seconds later. “Aw, for f***’s sake, we’re rubbish.” It seemed to encapsulate the tailspin of Chelsea’s season. Brighton, who won 2-1, were magnificent that day, mind.

Martin Samuel

BIG SAM TELLS IT HOW IT IS

“I might be 68 and look old but there’s nobody ahead of me in football terms, not Pep, not Klopp, not [Mikel] Arteta. It’s all there with me. They do what they do, I do what I do. In terms of knowledge and depth of knowledge, I’m up there with them.” May 3, 2023, Sam Allardyce announcing his return to the Premier League.

Martin Hardy

COLEMAN’S FIGHTING SPIRIT

Seamus Coleman was being carried off after being hurt away against Leicester City on May 1, his season over and concern growing over the extent of his knee injury. Yet, as he lay there, he was still shaking his fists to rouse the travelling fans. If a snapshot was required for the defiance and courage Everton needed on Sunday when they avoided relegation, their captain provided it there and then. Coleman was in the dressing room for the Bournemouth game and Everton would summon the spirit he showed that night.

Paul Joyce

JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES



A crisis could have been averted if Chelsea had appointed Pochettino as head coach in early April

Martin Samuel

Lots of directors but no direction: Chelsea's undoing

The voice of sport



Mauricio Pochettino did not want João Félix. Rather makes the ten games that he has played for Chelsea since Graham Potter's sacking in April a waste, doesn't it?

This month alone, Félix has featured across 156 minutes for Chelsea, starting once and making three substitute appearances. Mykhailo Mudryk got 11 minutes more. Yet Mudryk is part of Chelsea's future and Félix clearly not.

That was probably known from some way out, once it became clear that Pochettino would be Chelsea's head coach. Yet in Chelsea's final game of the season, against Newcastle United, Félix came on for 31 minutes, while Mudryk was an unused substitute. Wouldn't that have been better reversed — Chelsea's forward line reshuffled to accommodate those who were going to be with Pochettino?

What a waste of a season it has been. Now it is over, the big announcements are coming. The Atletico Madrid president, Enrique Cerezo, revealed that Félix would be returning to his parent club, and that this was Pochettino's call. So the new coach is making the decisions. Why, then, do Chelsea seem intent on appearing rudderless? They do not yet know Romelu Lukaku's intentions next season and some of their biggest domestic rivals — not least Manchester United and Liverpool, maybe even Arsenal — are growing increasingly confident around the acquisition of Mason Mount. There is also talk of disquiet in the academy ranks as promising players feel increasingly marginalised as the number of expensive acquisitions rises. Pochettino has a fine record in youth development. Might his presence have afforded important assurances?

There were so many names on the statement confirming what we had known for months that it read like the cast list for a Busby Berkeley spectacular. Not just Pochettino's backroom staff of Jesús Pérez, Miguel D'Agostino, Toni Jiménez and Pochettino's son, Sebastiano, but the co-sporting directors, Laurence Stewart and Paul Winstanley, plus the owners, Todd Boehly, Behdad Eghbali. José Feliciano, Mark Walter and Hansjörg Wyss. That's seven club officials to confirm what a child of that age could have told them two months ago: Pochettino was the best man for this job.

What took them so long? And having reached the inevitable, obvious, conclusion, why the delay in moving him in? The statement says Pochettino begins his new role on July 1 — although Cerezo may have blown that charade — yet he should have been employed in the first week of April. He was available and Chelsea were in crisis. Frank Lampard as caretaker was time wasted. He didn't have the authority to turn around the club because he was so obviously a temporary appointment, the players therefore did not respond to him, and Chelsea drifted with the only saving grace being an absence of relegation jeopardy.

Yet this is a relegation season, have no doubt. Chelsea have been relegated from Europe and from the top half of the table; they have been relegated from the roster of clubs that are considered efficiently run, relegated from those that belong, and pose a threat, to the elite. In matches against the European Super League clubs this season, plus Newcastle, Chelsea have drawn five and lost seven. There have been no wins. Yet Pochettino could have been in charge for at least a third of those fixtures. It cannot even be claimed the club have merely trod water in his absence. They have sunk as near to the bottom as an elite club are likely to go. And it was avoidable with decisive action.

Did Stewart and Winstanley really need all this time to identify Pochettino as the exceptional candidate? Given the haste with which some player recruitment has been conducted, what were they thinking? A snap decision was made on Enzo Fernández being worth £105 million, but it needed time to review what Pochettino did at Tottenham Hotspur and decide Chelsea could benefit?

A coach who works with and develops young players; who has experienced success, worked in leading European competitions; who has a reputation for diligence and preparedness, who sets high standards; who knows the English league and forms a strong bond with his players. None of this was a secret. From the start, Pochettino was the best option, as he was when Potter got the job.

Yet on it goes. As well as two sporting directors, Chelsea have Joe Shields, the co-director of recruitment and talent. Then there is Christopher Vivell, the technical director, and Andy Cousins, who is being courted for another scouting role, having left his job as head of football operations at Stoke City. That's an awful lot of directors for a club who have been without direction for months. And yet none of them knew enough to advise against continued game time for a player with no future at Stamford Bridge. What happened? You may find the answer in *Succession*, season one, episode two.

Why protect Toney but not Greenwood?

Brentford immediately moved to protect Ivan Toney after his suspension for gambling, and understandably so. Not only because he is potentially a financial asset, but also because there is a duty of care. A medical professional said that Toney had a problem with addiction and he is Brentford's employee. They have a responsibility to see him through this; his club are doing the right thing.

So what of Manchester United and Mason Greenwood? Erik ten Hag spoke positively of his qualities, yet an internal investigation into sexual assault allegations is continuing. With the horrendous charges now dropped, it is almost as if United hope another club, perhaps Juventus, will take the problem off their hands. There is little pressure on Greenwood's employers to plot a path to resolution. With nothing against Greenwood now proved, it seems a strange inconsistency.

Munich snooze fest

It was a fabulous, dramatic conclusion to the Bundesliga season on Saturday and yet at the same time utterly underwhelming. Jamal Musiala's winner for Bayern Munich with one minute of normal time to spare away to Köln should have been the league's "Agüerooo" moment. Instead it fell flat, clinching as it did Bayern's 11th straight title.

The Bundesliga is often held up as the epitome of fan-friendly, economically viable football, yet it is fast closing in on Gibraltar's National League as Europe's most one-sided competition. Lincoln Red Imps won Gibraltar's title race 14 times straight between 2002-03 and 2015-16, lost out to Europa FC, and have embarked on a five-season winning streak since. And Germany has a wider problem. In seven of Munich's 11 triumphant seasons, second place has gone to Borussia Dortmund. Supposed financial fairness has made Germany's biggest club untouchable, even in a bad year. It is why the Bundesliga is such a hard sell, wrapped in tape as red as the perpetual ribbons on the trophy.

● Bearing in mind the 2022-23 season hasn't ended yet, it seems a little premature to predict the first crisis of 2023-24, but here it is: Wolverhampton Wanderers. Arsenal are a good team and, pressure off and at home on the last day, were always likely to turn it on. Even so, Wolves' 5-0 defeat was an ominous sign. This is a club facing the same Financial Fair Play-related limitations as Leicester City this season, with a genuine chance of losing Julen Lopetegui, the gifted head coach, now he has discovered the limitations that may be placed on his recruitment plans. Wolves aren't so stocked with good players that they can afford to lose those they do have, but the midfielder Rúben Neves is expected to leave. This has a bad Leicester vibe. It could be a long summer, followed by a longer season.

● Wealth distribution continues to be a puzzle in football. The Premier League's numbers are not as skewed as Uefa's for the Champions League, but the end-of-season table still reveals some anomalies. Everton (17th) ahead of Nottingham Forest (16th) and Bournemouth (15th); West Ham United (14th) £4.3 million up on Wolves (13th); Chelsea (12th) the same amount clear of Crystal Palace (11th); Tottenham Hotspur (8th) making more money than Aston Villa (7th) or Brighton & Hove Albion (6th). We accept this, but it isn't right. Tottenham's share of the facility payment, which increases with each TV appearance, was £8.4 million more than Brighton; Chelsea outstripped Brighton by £7.6 million and even Everton, Leicester and Leeds United were ahead. Nothing succeeds like failure, it seems.

● Tony Gale always said it wasn't the football that frustrated him and a lot of the other West Ham United old boys when Sam Allardyce was manager of the club. It was Allardyce's idea that West Ham didn't know how to win a game until he turned up. Gale was a member of the team that enjoyed West Ham's highest finish, third, in 1985-86. "We did win games before Sam too," Gale said.

Yet when West Ham defeated Leeds United in the penultimate game of the Premier League season, a result that as good as relegated them, Allardyce also came close to taking credit for that one. Asked what he had made of Leeds in his brief time there, he said: "It doesn't take long to work it out. I sorted this club out when I came here, didn't I? They're still here."

Well, Allardyce got West Ham promoted in 2011-12, and kept them solidly mid-table, but his contract wasn't renewed at the end of 2014-15, after a run of three wins from Boxing Day. It was Slaven Bilic who then got West Ham into Europe on league position, and later David Moyes. Allardyce was a steadying hand more than a transformative presence.

Yet, despite a run of one point from 12 in his spell at Leeds, he talks like a man with all the answers. "I can tell them what I think needs to be done," he said, "but I am not committing myself to staying just yet." He does have some good strategies, Allardyce — but playing hard to get at a club he's just seen into the Championship may prove his boldest one.

'Our style is successful – why change it for the Ashes?'

Pat Cummins tells **Paul Edwards** rotation will be key in series that may lack cut-throat sledging of old

Royal Birkdale Golf Club on the last Sunday morning in May. The weather portends an idyllic English summer. Pied wagtails scutter on the 18th green and from the terrace comes the gentle clink of glasses as members reflect on their rounds before ordering their lunches.

It is, you might think, a slightly incongruous place for the best cricketers in Australia to spend some time before getting down to the serious business of playing six Tests in 55 days, but the idea of fitting in a few days' golf on the Sefton coast suited Pat Cummins and his squad perfectly.

"The golf was great," Cummins, the Australian captain, says. "Joshy Hazlewood was my partner and we won our game, so it was a really good start to the tournament. We're playing a few different courses but we're staying up the road at Formby. It's a long flight from Australia and we hadn't seen each other for a couple of months, so we thought it would be a good idea to play a bit of golf and then we'd still have plenty of time ahead of the Test match against India."

Cummins and his colleagues now have a little more than a week before taking on India in the final of the World Test Championship at the Oval. Five days later, the Ashes begins at Edgbaston and by the end of July, the Australians will have completed a programme that might be seen as cricket's version of the 1969 dance marathon film, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*.

"It's busy," Cummins agrees. "In 2019 we had the World Cup and then went straight into five Tests here and I remember being pretty tired by the last one. But that's part of the reason why I've taken the last couple of months off. There are two gaps of just over a week between Tests, so we'll just make sure we use them as well as we can. And like most Ashes series, you feel like you need over 15 players for five Tests."

Australia have named a 17-man squad for the first three five-day games but it includes only four frontline fast bowlers. And while some English cricketers have expressed doubts as to whether any members of their new-ball attack will play every Ashes Test, Cummins is clear about what he expects his own involvement to be.

3rd
Cummins is currently third in the Test bowling rankings with a rating of 841, behind James Anderson (859) and Ravichandran Ashwin (869)

"Hopefully, I am going to play all six Tests," he says. "But we also have Sean Abbott [Surrey] and Michael Neser [Glamorgan] over here, both of whom are fit and playing quite a bit."

Yet Cummins is also aware that the Australians playing county cricket represent only a minuscule percentage of the total number of his countrymen who will be in England this summer. A few will be playing in their own Ashes series; one of the over-60s "Grey Ashes" matches is to be hosted by Southport and Birkdale CC, half a mile away from where Cummins relaxed on Sunday. Others will fill some of the stands during the Test matches and will probably be recognisable by their green-and-gold livery.

"You feel the history a lot more with an Ashes series and you know how many Australians travel over for the Tests," Cummins says. "This is their one big tour that they've been saving up for years to come and see. Every series seems to have a huge story to it, so for an Aussie cricketer, and I'm sure as an English cricketer as well, it's the pinnacle of the sport."

But Cummins does not need telling that high stakes sometimes produce high temperatures. He knows that the atmosphere at Edgbaston, with the Eric Hollies Stand in full-throated voice when the Ashes begins on June 16, will be far removed from the gentility of Royal Birkdale. However, for this Australian, sledging has its limits.

"You look back 15 or 20 years and there might have been that bit more verbal aggression which has gone out of the window a bit these days," Cummins says. "You're allowed to treat people decently out on the field and still be competitive. There's a bit more respect between opponents because you do know them and you do play alongside them in different competitions. And then there are cricketers against whom you might have played in six or seven Ashes series, so you know them well. The series are ultra-competitive and hard fought but they don't get super-heated very often."

As for tactics, Cummins and his players will go about things their own way and you might argue that a bowler who has taken 217 Test wickets at 21.50 apiece is entitled to plough his own furrow, not to mention a team who may be World Test champions in about a dozen days' time. They may have taken note of England's novel approach to the five-day game but they see no reason to ape it.

"We've had a lot of success in the last couple of years playing our way," he says. "Our team is very experienced and most of the guys know their own games really well. Some players are really aggressive, some are happy to build an innings and I don't think much will change this series.

"We've all played enough to know what works and what doesn't, you don't need to overcomplicate things. You can get into the minutiae of data and planning but the top of off stump is a pretty good place to bowl."

PHILIP BROWN/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES



Australia have a busy summer ahead with six Tests in 55 days. Cummins is preparing to play in every one as the squad only contains four front-line quicks

Australia's summer Tests

World Test Championship final
Australia v India
June 7-11 (The Oval).

The Ashes
First Test: June 16-20 (Edgbaston).
Second: June 28-July 2 (Lord's).
Third: July 6-10 (Headingley).
Fourth: July 19-23 (Old Trafford).
Fifth: July 27-31 (The Oval).

Tongue 'left speechless' after earning Lord's bow

CONTINUED FROM BACK

him into the squad. He looks like he has an immense amount of talent."

Tongue will be the first Worcestershire player to be selected for England since Moeen Ali but has never played at Lord's before — not even in county cricket — and was clearly taken aback by his selection.

"I'm speechless really," he said yesterday. "[I was] from when I got the first call-up to be in the squad. Now being in the actual team, it's just a dream come true. Baz came up to me just before training finished today, I had just finished a gym session and he came up to me and gave me the good news.

"I bowled at some of the lads on Monday and I felt like I bowled nicely and obviously I was going in with no expectations to be playing at all and just bowling at high-class players in the nets was just good for me, but I must have bowled fairly well to get selected."

Tongue missed 15 months of cricket between 2021 and 2022 because of a rare nerve issue in his shoulder that left him unable to feel his right arm, and was on the verge of retirement. But after two operations he returned to the game and has impressed the England scouts, resulting in a selection for the England Lions tour to Sri Lanka in the winter and now a Test debut.

He is a product of the Worcestershire academy system, having played for the county since the under-tens when he was only six, and has taken 162 wickets at an average of 26 from 47 first-class matches.

He hit the headlines this month when he took the wicket of Steve Smith in the first match of the Australia batsman's short stint with Sussex, and the England management team see a lot of potential in the young bowler. He has improved his consistency of line and length, and bowls at a brisk pace that is awkward in English conditions. After two training sessions with McCullum, England's head coach, he had clearly done enough to leapfrog Woakes.



Tongue almost retired after a shoulder injury

Tongue is from cricketing stock; his dad is a coach who has worked at Bromsgrove School and was Josh's coach during his age-group days. "It's going to be a very emotional day for my dad [tomorrow]," Tongue said.

The rest of England's team for this four-day match is as expected. Ben Stokes, who is still carrying injury worries, is not expected to bowl unless absolutely necessary, so England are hoping that three frontline seamers plus the spin of Jack Leach will be enough to get through Ireland easily.

And now, for Tongue, the prospect of playing in an Ashes Test at some point this summer has just got a bit closer.

England Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c), Jonny Bairstow (wk), Stuart Broad, Matthew Potts, Josh Tongue, Jack Leach
TV Sky Sports Main Event, tomorrow 11am

Dhoni hints at staying for attempt at sixth IPL title

MS Dhoni has hinted that he will carry on playing after helping Chennai Super Kings win a record-equalling fifth IPL title.

Before the final against Gujarat Titans the 41-year-old had indicated that he might be ready to retire, and was out first ball in Chennai's reply, but after his side's triumph he suggested that he was ready to play on for one more season.

"The way [fans have] shown their love and affection, I think that's something I need to do for them," he said.

Dhoni has now equalled Rohit Sharma's record of five titles as captain, but many commentators believe Dhoni is in a league of his own. Sanjay Manjrekar, the former India batsman, said: "This kind of leadership will rarely be seen."

‘He loves cricket more than

Steve James talks to people who guided Harry Brook to top and discovers the hard yards put in by Yorkshireman

It was early April in 2019 and the Yorkshire team bus was wending its way back home from Trent Bridge after a County Championship match against Nottinghamshire. Harry Brook, just 20 then, was not very happy.

The previous season he had volunteered to open the batting for his county in the hope that, with so many budding international middle-order candidates at the time, he might catch the eye of the England selectors there instead. It did not go well. In 12 matches he averaged only 25, and this first championship match of the new season had not gone swimmingly either.

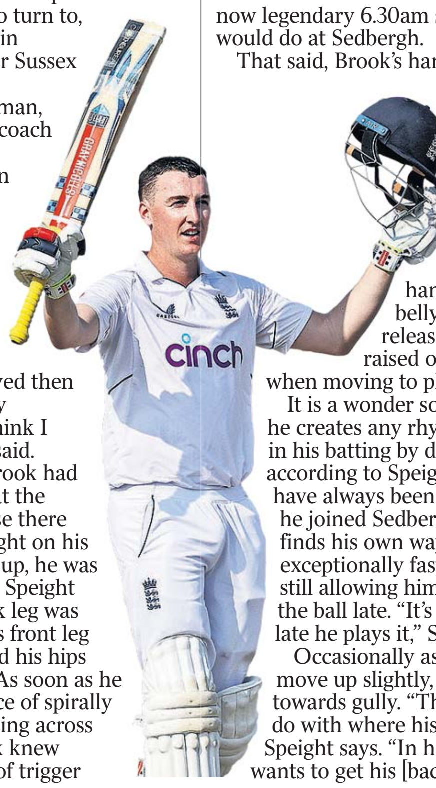
During the journey home he struck up a conversation with his team-mate Joe Root and the county batting coach, Paul Grayson.

“I remember coming back on that coach journey and he was talking to me and Rooty saying he needed to change his game,” Grayson says. “He’s always had this natural ability, beautiful hands and hand-eye co-ordination, but his technique was being a little bit exposed against the new ball. It made him realise that, if he was going to succeed, he had to change his game a little bit.”

Grayson had some sage advice for the youngster. “I said to him, ‘Opening the batting is probably a good thing because it has exposed you and you will be a better player for this experience, even when you end up moving down the order.’ I always said he would probably end up batting No 4 or 5.”

During the season is no time to be making significant technical changes, but by August Brook was dropped to the second team, returning to the first team later in the season lower down in the middle order. He finished that season averaging only 21.76.

Now it certainly was time to change and there was only one person Brook was going to turn to, and that was Martin Speight, the former Sussex and Durham wicketkeeper-batsman, who had been his coach at the remote Sedbergh School in Cumbria and with whom he is still in constant, almost daily, contact, seeing him for net sessions when time permits.



The WhatsApp message duly arrived then for Speight in early October, 2019. “Think I need a trigger,” it said.

Up until then Brook had always stood still at the crease, but, because there was too much weight on his back leg in his set-up, he was now in trouble. As Speight explains: “His back leg was now collapsing, his front leg planting across and his hips were opening up. As soon as he did that, like a piece of spirally pasta, he kept playing across everything.” Brook knew exactly what sort of trigger movement he wanted to adopt. He was very close to Gary Ballance at Yorkshire and Ballance’s back-and-across method (albeit as a left-hander as opposed to Brook as a right-hander) was what Brook wanted to imitate.

“If you look at Brooky’s technique now, where he goes back in straight lines and goes back quite a long way, it is like Gary’s technique,” Grayson says. “I think Gary had a big influence on that. In the dressing room it is always good to have a senior player you can trust and be with, and he spent a lot of time with Gary.”

Trigger movements are an often misunderstood part of batting. They are a means of getting batters into a “ready” position, with their weight forward, so that they can then move either forward or back once the line and length of the ball have been located. They become much more important the higher up the ladder a player moves, simply because the pace increases. Standing still against a bowler operating at 90mph is almost impossible, even if there are some players, such as South Africa’s Aiden Markram, who do try to do just that.

It goes back to Duncan Fletcher’s brilliant description of why you should use trigger movements. He used to tell his players to imagine that they had a million-pound job (he could never have foreseen that cricketers would earn that much one day), but the only snag was that they had to get to work by bus and there was only one prompt, on-time bus every day. If they missed their bus, they were fired. So, they had a decision to make: get to the bus stop early, on time or late.

The answer, of course, is to get there early (not too early though as you may fall asleep) and this applies to batting too. Against the quickest bowlers an early movement means the final movement need not be so large and rushed.

With his trigger movement, Brook certainly looks ready now when a bowler runs in, with his head forward and impeccably still, and his bat held aloft. The trigger allows him, when stressed by extra pace, to maintain the alignment and head position that he and Speight would always spend the first 15 minutes working on in the now legendary 6.30am sessions they would do at Sedbergh.

That said, Brook’s hands remain unusually high — even in this day and age of bats aloft, most players prefer to keep their hands by their belly button at ball release — and are raised only a fraction when moving to play a shot.

It is a wonder sometimes how he creates any rhythm and flow in his batting by doing this, but according to Speight his hands have always been like this since he joined Sedbergh aged 14. He finds his own way through exceptionally fast hands, while still allowing himself to play the ball late. “It’s unreal how late he plays it,” Speight says.

Occasionally as his hands move up slightly, they go out towards gully. “That will be to do with where his head is,” Speight says. “In his trigger he wants to get his [back] toe on to off stump, with his back leg virtually straight and then he will rock forward into a really powerful position.

“I always say to him, ‘Get your head over your left heel.’ As soon as his head drifts a fraction that’s when his hands go out, as his shoulders open up to access the ball.”

There was another part of his game that Brook wanted to improve that winter in 2019. He had what is called a hooded pick-up, with the bat face square to the ground rather being slightly open.

“He had also noticed that in white-ball cricket people were bowling full and wide at him and, with his blade square, he couldn’t access the ball with his wrists and hit the ball through point,” Speight says. “We worked on that. Now he has an open blade.”

Brook, now 24, is fortunate that at school he had such a fine coach in Speight, who was a gifted player himself, a free-flowing, innovative batsman well ahead of his time, and it is actually a surprise that he has not progressed further in the coaching ranks given his influence on a once-in-a-generation cricketer in Brook.

Independent schools take a lot of flak in the cricketing world, as well as in the world in general, but the truth is that, given the sad decline of state-school cricket, the game needs them, with their excellent facilities and coaches. It is true that the impact of some independent schools is overstated, especially those merely “buying” ready-made players on scholarships for the sixth form and then showing off the strength of their team, while claiming they have produced those players. But Brook is a good example of a cricketer from a less than wealthy background — it was as much a means-tested bursary as scholarship that Sedbergh offered him — whose progress would surely never have been quite as steep without Sedbergh and Speight.

In many ways, with its combination of genes, talent and some inevitable luck and opportunity, Brook’s cricketing progress is an ideal template these days for an aspiring international cricketer. First, he is from a cricket-mad family and his introduction to the game came from them and then through club cricket, as it should. His father, David, was an excellent batsman for Burley-in-Wharfedale, a village situated northwest of Leeds, between Ilkley and Otley (Harry has still to surpass the family record score of 210 that Dad holds), while his uncles, Richard and Nick, still play there. Grandfather Tony was also a club stalwart.

It was to his grandparents’ house that young Harry would go straight after school in the pre-Sedbergh days. Tony, who threw balls to Brook for hours has died, but, when Speight does a session with Brook at Burley, they go to that house afterwards for lunch made by his grandmother.

“His granny is ‘Wawa’,” Speight says. “He has always called her that. I don’t know what her name is [it is Pauline]. She is hard as nails, she is lovely. She still does all his washing. There will be all the Brook shirts on the line. She’s brilliant.”

Brook attended the state Ilkley Grammar School while working his way through the Yorkshire pathway before being offered a place at Sedbergh after attending one of Speight’s summer camps at the school. Yorkshire were also very keen for him to have that opportunity. And, boy, did he make the most of it.

In the year above Brook was James Botham, the Cardiff and Wales rugby player, son of Liam and grandson of Lord Botham. In Brook’s first year at the school they played in the cricket first team together, an experience Botham describes as his “favourite year of cricket” with a lad from “year 10 getting his name on the board for getting tons”.

Sedbergh has a rich rugby heritage featuring the former England captain Will Carling and the World Cup winner Will Greenwood, and present



Brook sweeps on his way to celebrating a ton against Pakistan, inset left, displaying the technique refined since a cricket-

anyone I know'

ASIF HASSAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



The trigger movement

Brooks' back leg makes a move back towards his stumps and to his right side. As the ball is bowled he ends up showing only his off stump

obsessed childhood that, like his senior career, featured a Gray-Nicolls bat, above

players and coaches such as Cameron Redpath (Scotland), Tomas Francis (Wales) and Phil Dowson (Northampton Saints director of rugby), not to mention Botham.

But the cricket is very good too, as Botham points out, counting George Hill, Matthew Revis (both Yorkshire) and Jordan Clark (Surrey) as alumni now playing on the county circuit. "The facilities are amazing, it's probably the best schoolboy pitch to play on," Botham says, as indeed is evidenced by Lancashire's use of the school as an outground.

It has been well-documented that when Brook arrived at Sedbergh he was a little tubby and not particularly fit. As Botham says: "He had a few things to work on. The boys were saying he wasn't fit enough, which to be honest he wasn't, but he is now."

Brook regularly saw the school athletics coach to improve his running style and was waiting at 6.25am for Speight to throw to him for a couple of hours before school.

"I wasn't a big fan of the early mornings," Botham says with a chuckle. "But Speighty is the most remarkable man. He has a heart of gold that guy, the amount of time he has put into individuals, especially Brooky, is incredible."

Speight certainly found a young man in Brook who was willing to put in the hours. "He loves practising and training," he says. "He has a very strict batting routine. He will bat for hours. It is all based around the fact that if he is really comfortable with everything in his set-up, he then makes really good decisions. As soon as something is out, he knows it.

"He still sends me his videos every day, saying, 'Can you see anything? I'm not sure about this,' and I will say, 'Maybe that is a minuscule bit off there,' — perhaps drawing a line on it saying this is where your head should be — and he will go away and practise that. He now picks it up quicker and quicker when he is in net sessions on his own."

And Brook is always willing to go back to the basics to keep his game in order. "After the Pakistan Test series last winter, he said he wanted to practise white-ball, but for the first 20 minutes I used a new white ball and it was like playing a moving red ball and he just batted, barely played a shot," Speight says.

Chancing upon England white-ball coach Matthew Mott recently, I asked him about Brook. "He loves the game more than anyone I know," he said.

"What? More than Marnus [Labuschagne] or [Steve] Smith?" I replied, knowing that Mott had worked with both in Australia.

"Well, they are in the grand final for sure," he said with a smile. I was also present not long ago when Mott addressed a group of young academy players about playing spin. The player he suggested they watch was one Harry Brook.

And you can see why. Brook's judgment of length against spin is exceptional. He can pull balls that are only just short of a length over mid-wicket for six, and he can also hit inside-out over extra cover with alacrity, as he showed in the second Test of the series against Pakistan when memorably hitting the leg spinner Zahid Mahmood from way outside leg stump for four through that area.

"At school he was always really strong at going inside-out," Speight says. "As for picking length, you look back at what he did at school. I taught him to play spin orthodoxly, but once he got to 16, we went, 'Right, let's change, just bat on leg stump,' and I used to put the bowling machine on slow and said to him he was not allowed to move his feet, just stand there and hit it through the off side. He spent hours just hitting balls with his back foot on leg stump."

The fast short ball is one aspect of Brook's game that is sure to come under intense scrutiny this summer against Australia, and it is sure to be England's plan to attack the short stuff — "Just hit it into the stands," as captain Ben Stokes advised Jonny Bairstow when being peppered at Trent Bridge against New Zealand last year — so Brook has been working at that.

"He can't pull like Jonny Bairstow, that shovel-pull," Speight says. "His body doesn't work that way. We have worked on a golf-drive shot that he hits on the top of the bounce over wide mid-on, a sort of drag shot, with a straighter bat. That is what he goes to now. The way his shoulder, arms and wrists work he hasn't got that bottom-handed grip to shovel it."

> "The boys were saying he wasn't fit enough, which to be honest he wasn't, but he is now

As for Brook's character, Speight says, "He's such a grounded, ordinary kid. There is no edge on him. Money is not a big thing for him, his agent takes care of that, he just wants to bat."

And Grayson points to how the "shy lad" has become more self-assured. "He has matured, he was never very comfortable speaking in the dressing room," he says. "But when I have seen some of his interviews when he has been with England, he has really come on.

"I really enjoyed his company, there is a bit of naivety about him, but he is good fun to be with."

He is also rather good fun to watch. The Indian Premier League, save one spectacular century, proved a challenging time, dropped by his Sunrisers Hyderabad team, but it often looked as if he was trying a little too hard, particularly against the spinners on slow, inconsistent pitches.

But, as with his dalliance with opening those years ago, he will have learnt a great deal from the experience. A first Ashes series will be another fascinating test for one of the most exciting young players in the world right now.

Lord's indifference is understandable for proud Ireland

Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent



It says something about the opening Test of the summer that among the most hotly debated topics is the whereabouts of a bowler who has not played a Test match and averages more than 50 runs per wicket in first-class cricket. To highlight that statistic is a little unfair on Ireland's Josh Little, given that he has played only six first-class games, but the reason for the column inches is not his ability but his absence.

We are not talking Wasim Akram-like brilliance, but Little, a very decent left-armer, is a miss for Ireland. Little has been with Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League and on the road for a long period, appearing in Ireland's three 50-over one-day internationals against Bangladesh this month, before returning for the final stages of the IPL. He requested some rest and Ireland's selectors decided that the Lord's Test, starting only three days after the IPL final, was the best place to take it.

Were Gubby Allen casting a gimlet eye over proceedings from the committee room, he might have spluttered into his gin and tonic at the explanation given by Ireland's high-performance director, Richard Holdsworth, who described the Lord's Test as "not a pinnacle event". In fairness to Holdsworth, he went on to say Ireland are very proud to play a Test at Lord's, but that their focus is on the World Cup qualifiers to come.

Little is a poster boy for Irish cricket given his presence in the IPL, for which he has been handsomely rewarded. The Lord's Test is sandwiched in between that and Ireland's double World Cup qualifiers, in Zimbabwe for the 50-over World Cup, and then Scotland for the T20 World Cup. The Lord's Test, then, has become an opportune moment to rest, from which nobody from Holdsworth to Andrew Balbirnie, the captain, to Heinrich Malan, the head coach, has sought to hide. They have been admirably candid.

You once heard administrators regularly pay lip service to Test cricket as the "pinnacle", even as they sought to undermine it, but not now. For Ireland, full-member status is as much about the financial dividend as the ability to play Test cricket — after all, they have played only six Tests since admission in 2017, half of those coming during April.

So as we await the curtain-raiser Test of the summer it is best not to kid ourselves. As with all cricket matches, there will be plenty of interest to sustain us, but it is hard to ignore the fact that both these teams have more important matters to hand: World Cup qualification for Ireland and the Ashes for England.

The first of four Tests in the capital this summer — a remarkable statistic when you think of the challenges the five-day game is facing — is the one with least riding on it.

That said, it will be a proud moment for Balbirnie, the 32-year-old from Dublin, when he leads his team from the Long Room on Thursday. He will take with him four survivors from the remarkable Test against England at Lord's four years ago: Mark Adair, the bustling seamer; Paul Stirling, fresh from a Test hundred against Sri Lanka in April; James McCollum, struggling thus far in Tests; Andy McBrine, the off spinner. As England fans will remember from the T20 World Cup in Melbourne, Balbirnie is no stranger to leading Ireland to victory over England.

That match at Lord's four years ago was a bizarre affair: it finished in seven sessions, with Jack Leach clutching the man-of-the-match award for his batting, which stood out for its basic competence. Otherwise, it featured some of the worst batting witnessed in modern Test cricket: England were dismissed for 85 in their first innings; Ireland for 38 in their second, bowled out in 15.4 overs.

Ireland have lost all six Tests they have played and it is difficult to see them breaking that run now. That match against England was their best chance so far of success, given that they took a first-innings lead of 122, but their batting let them down. On paper that now looks their stronger suit. With the retirements of Boyd Rankin and Tim Murtagh the bowling looks thin.

Balbirnie heads a potentially strong batting line-up. In their one warm-up match, against Essex (albeit a mixed fixture, with Ireland's players picked across both teams), openers McCollum and Peter Moor made hundreds in the second innings, Stirling made a hundred in the first, with Lorcan Tucker falling just short and Balbirnie contributing a half-century. The middle order looks solid.

Those returns were posted on the back of very little recent red-ball experience too. Ireland's cricketers have not played red-ball cricket at provincial level since Covid, and the handful of Tests played is an indication of the scheduling challenges, as well as the pressure on playing resources, in a multiformat world. A warm-up match against Essex is the scant sum of their preparation here.

The one who missed out at Chelmsford is Harry Tector, who, at 23 years old, is Irish cricket's brightest prospect. Tector has had an excellent start to his international career, posting three half-centuries in the three Tests he has played; and four ODI hundreds, with the result that he has shot up the ODI rankings and now appears in the top ten between David Warner and Virat Kohli.

Despite the absences on both sides, a Lord's Test is still a fine stage to exhibit your talent. Runs from Tector would highlight his potential, help Ireland's cause and help banish memories of the shocking standard of batting — from both sides — four years ago.



Balbirnie has led Ireland to victory over England before

Sport

Rahm questions García's absence
Spaniard says politics will affect Europe's Ryder Cup chances
Page 57



'Going down was our fault'
Southampton owners take the blame for club's relegation
Exclusive interview, page 58



Tongue to make shock Lord's debut

Seamer given England call as Woakes is left out

Elizabeth Ammon

Josh Tongue received a shock call-up to the England Test team on a dramatic day at Lord's yesterday that began with Chris Woakes undertaking media duties amid an expectation that he would be selected but ended with the 34-year-old being told he would not be rekindling his Test career this week.

Woakes did the rounds of television, radio and newspaper interviews at lunchtime yesterday, and usual precedent is that media duties are done by those who are likely to play. England then trained in the afternoon and by the end of the training session, Brendon McCullum had wandered over to the 25-year-old Tongue to tell him that he would be playing ahead of Woakes.

The Worcestershire seamer was called into the squad last week after Ollie Robinson and James Anderson had both suffered minor injuries that mean they are being rested for this Test before the Ashes. It had not been expected, however, that he would play and that Woakes, who has an exceptional record at Lord's with 27 wickets at an average of 11.33 and where he also averages 62 with the bat, would take the new ball along with Stuart Broad.

Before being told he was being left out, Woakes had revealed that he had feared that he may never play Test cricket again because of a knee injury that required surgery in the summer of 2022, but believed he had returned well for England in limited-overs cricket over the winter and made a strong start to the season with Warwickshire.

"There were moments where I wasn't sure what the future would hold in terms of red-ball cricket, but I still hold it in high regard and want to play this format for as long as possible," Woakes said. "It was a relief when the call came that I had managed to get back in the fold. You do have doubts that your time might have passed."

But head coach McCullum apparently thought otherwise and, having watched Tongue in training yesterday and on Monday, clearly liked what he saw. With Anderson, Robinson and Mark Wood set to return to the squad for the first Ashes Test on June 16, Woakes's chances of pushing his way back into the side appear to be slipping away. It is possible that England are keeping Woakes fit by not playing him in this match in case Robinson or Anderson have not fully recovered by the start of the series against Australia.

"Josh is a big, strong lad, that's for sure — he looks like he bowls quite fast and has some real skills," McCullum said on Monday after his first training session with the squad. "He is obviously a bit of a rough diamond, he's had some injuries throughout his career and it is nice for a guy like him to be able to have an extended period of time where he has been injury-free this summer to push his case.

"We think he has got something really exciting and hence we brought

Continued on page 61

PHILIP BROWN/GETTY IMAGES



Tongue stood out enough in training this week to be part of an England attack that will be without Robinson and Anderson for the Test against Ireland at Lord's

Félix ditched by Pochettino

Gary Jacob

Mauricio Pochettino has made the first big decision of his Chelsea tenure by turning down the chance to sign João Félix on a permanent deal.

The attacking midfielder will return to Atletico Madrid, signalling the start of the clear-out at Chelsea in which as many as 15 players could leave to make the squad a more manageable size for Pochettino, who starts work on July 1.

Félix, 23, delivered some lively performances and scored four goals in 16 league appearances after joining on loan, which cost Chelsea about £15 million, including a £9 million fee. He had suggested he wanted to stay after enjoying his time in London but will return to the Spanish club where he has a contract until 2027. Enrique Cerezo, the Atletico president, said he was informed of Chelsea's decision on Monday.

Martin Samuel, page 60

London Irish pay ultimatum

Alex Lowe Rugby Correspondent

The RFU will decide today whether to eject London Irish from the English league system or grant the club extra time for a takeover to be completed.

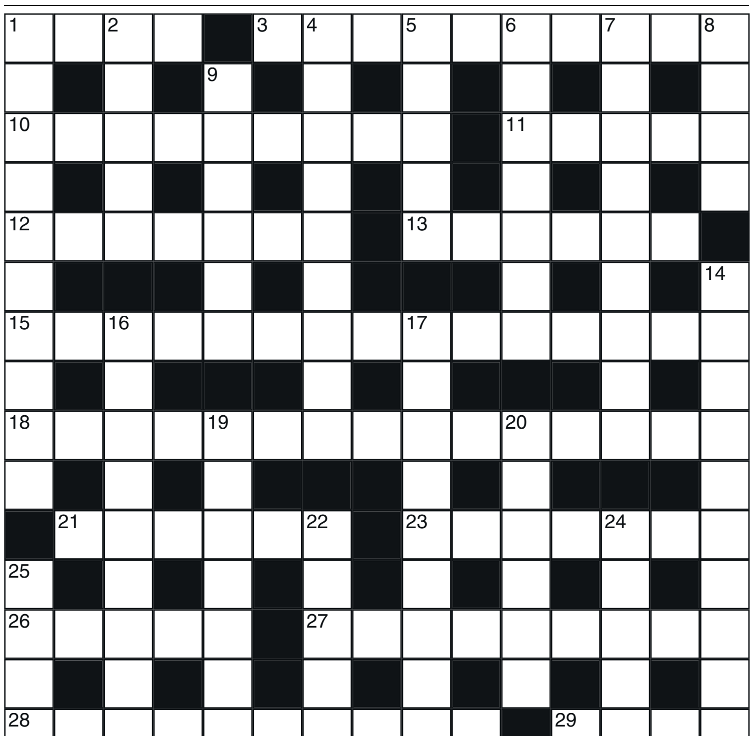
That decision was made significantly more complicated last night when the Gallagher Premiership club gambled on their future by backtracking at the 11th hour on a key commitment to pay the players their full May salaries.

Twickenham officials had set a deadline yesterday for a deal to be completed with the American consortium proposing a takeover, or for Mick Crosan, the owner, to commit to supporting the club financially for next season.

Failure to secure one of those two conditions would lead to London Irish being suspended from the Premiership at today's RFU board meeting. The

Continued on page 57

Times Crossword 28,617



ACROSS

1 A time to abandon overdone religious ceremony (4)
3 Boss one in recent times restricted in cramped lodging? (6,4)
10 Posh mariner in hat avoiding lake and river (9)
11 Clown Launcelot covering two bachelors in slime (5)
12 Crime related to stolen goods receiver (7)
13 King murdered in dark and gloomy prison (6)
15 2 of 25 behind with credit given by wine people (15)
18 Company calls about poor lads maltreated in resort (8,7)
21 Skate home? Notice daughter holding a book (6)
23 Upheaval at Cape Canaveral? (7)
26 Short stay in French hotel for White House resident? (5)
27 Ecstasy taken into pub by super star group (5,4)
28 Free issue includes image facing the wrong way (10)
29 Network in muddle, as Connery would have had it? (4)

DOWN

1 Review top secret revelation's source after decoding (10)
2 Tea leaf from tea in Paris to impress one female (5)
4 Went over point, reflecting, having introduced poetry (9)
5 Nymph in wood unbalanced, lacking warmth for male (5)
6 Last letter in newspaper a sheer fabrication? (7)
7 One in Larkin's position, 51, very naughty boy accepting God (9)
8 Old city queen featured in play (4)
9 Artist using lathe? (6)
14 An award taken by Scots river along with other things? (3,2,5)
16 What's observed in 27, flying low, unable to change course? (3,6)
17 Broke in thus — lever initially opening (9)
19 Unthinking nonsense keeping old boy in charge (7)
20 Deny match official cup ties on a regular basis (6)
22 Find good university in Bath (3,2)
24 Is it extra stout that's inside to be selected? (5)
25 Frenchman in relationship for an age? (4)

Yesterday's solution 28,616



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03 WHY ACCESSIBILITY IS ESSENTIAL IN 2023

08 IS A NET-ZERO EVENTS SECTOR IN REACH?

10 THE NEW SCIENCE OF ASSESSING TRIP ROI



Want to drive real business outcomes at events?
Get emotional.

Find out how emotions drive tangible business outcomes on **p.11**

wrg

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ACCESSIBILITY

In-person events are back – but are they inclusive?

Greater awareness of a range of physical and mental health conditions has raised the bar for accessibility at conferences, seminars and other business events. What do organisers need to know to ensure everyone feels welcome?

Elizabeth Anderson

When footwear retailer Schuh held its spring-summer 2023 press launch in April, the team responsible for organising the event decided to focus on putting accessibility at the heart of the planning, communication and production.

For instance, to help attendees manage any conditions they might have, the event agenda was sent out ahead of time, explaining what to expect throughout the day; a two-hour 'quiet' slot was set aside when no music would play; and shoe displays were set at various heights to suit every guest's needs. The event was praised widely on LinkedIn by people impressed by the consideration shown.

"We've made many changes over the past two years to build disability confidence and trust," says Alice Cleary, Schuh's chief marketing officer. "We now have a blueprint for all our future events, whether they're industry-facing or aimed at customers or employees."

Indeed, as business events make a comeback after the Covid-related disruption, there is growing awareness among organisers of the need to prioritise accessibility and inclusivity in this way. That will mean putting more thought into how events should be adapted to meet every possible need.

After all, there's a huge range of potential conditions to consider, from so-called invisible conditions such as Crohn's disease, arthritis and diabetes to mental health issues and neurological differences such as autism and ADHD.

But being inclusive doesn't always mean that radical changes are needed. It simply means considering the full spectrum of attendees and offering options rather than a one-size-fits-most solution.

Rick Stainton is founder of The Power of Events, a not-for-profit that represents the main trade associations and major players in the events industry. He recommends that organisers of in-person events should prioritise looking for step-free access when choosing a venue, keeping an eye out for ramps, or at least handrails where steps are unavoidable. Plenty of accessible toilets are a must, and organisers may want to consider quiet areas or zones where people can self-regulate if they are feeling overwhelmed, he says.

"Most conference centres are fully accessible. Quirky venues are not always. A great safe bet is universities. They are fully bought into inclusivity and have the facilities to accommodate needs such as gender-neutral or individual bathrooms," adds Paul Ince, who runs an annual marketing conference in his role as CEO of LikeMind Media.


skynesher via iStock

One challenge for event organisers, of course, is to do all the above in a cost-effective way. Ince notes that providing extra rooms will often cost more, but explaining what they are being used for at the booking stage may help negotiations, particularly with supportive venues. If the budget is tight, Microsoft PowerPoint can run live captions for people hard of hearing and offers the bionic reading font, which highlights parts of words to make text easier and faster to read for some people with dyslexia and ADHD.

When it comes to the structure of the event, consider regular breaks for those who struggle to sit for long periods and for people who need frequent toilet trips. Build in time for people to stretch their legs between speakers, particularly if a speech is longer than an hour.

Likewise, accessible seating, and knowing where this will be located in advance, can help people plan where to sit. Some may prefer the front because of sight or hearing issues, while others may prefer to be at the back to avoid sensory issues.

"Clear maps of the venue, where there might be stairs, where the accessible toilets are, where seating areas are, plus whether there is parking (and if not, what nearby options I have as a Blue Badge-holder) helps mitigate anxiety as I can prepare," says Jen Parker, an editor and designer who has an autoimmune condition and suffers from chronic pain. She adds that a cloakroom is a must, as lugging coats and bags around is difficult when she walks with a stick.

Pre-event communication is key to all of this. Allow guests to provide information about any individual requirements on the registration form – whether that's access issues, dietary needs or sign language – and let them know in the pre-event communications if there will be any flash photography, strobe lighting or images that may cause seizures, or loud sounds or music. Consider fast-track queuing for those not able to stand for long periods.

If that all sounds burdensome, technology is now able to help out here. For instance, audience-profiling tools give organisations detailed insights into their audience's needs. Guests are typically asked a handful of questions in advance, and the profiling tool analyses and summarises the data to help organisers shape an event around the answers.

"Individuals with neurological differences such as autism, ADHD or dyslexia can experience conferences in ways that differ from their neurotypical peers," says Bruce Rose, head of audience at events agency Live Group, which recently launched an audience-profiling tool. "The overwhelming sensory environment of large crowds, bright lights and loud noises can cause sensory overload for some. Providing a quiet space can really help."

He adds that introducing a buddy system that pairs attendees with a volunteer to support them as they navigate the event can also greatly help guests. Another option is to offer a complimentary visitor ticket to anyone who needs extra support.

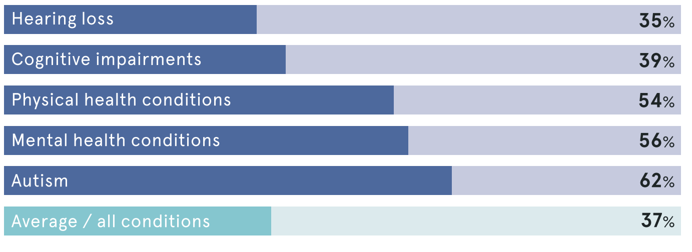
Equally, tapping into some of the technology we've all been using at home over the past few years can help too. For instance, if people can't physically attend a venue, they may be able to take part online, assuming the in-person event is set up for hybrid participation.

Leor Franks, business development director at law firm Kingsley Napley LLP, hosts many online events. He recommends Remo for virtual events thanks to its interactive breakout rooms and says Zoom works well for seminars and presentations. "Some platforms, such as Microsoft Teams, now offer automated real-time transcription tools, which is helpful for those who find listening to event audio challenging," he adds.

With so many new accessibility-enabling tools at their disposal, there's now no excuse for events organisers not to be considerate of guests' needs. After all, small changes can make a big difference – and need not blow the budget.

ORGANISERS MUST REMEMBER THAT NOT EVERYONE WILL WANT TO DISCLOSE THEIR CONDITIONS

Percentage of UK employees with invisible disabilities who do not routinely declare it in professional settings, by condition type



INvolve, 2023

WELLBEING

How business travel became an HR issue

Since Covid, HR teams have been getting more and more involved in planning business trips. It's all part of a greater focus on employee wellbeing

Jonathan Weinberg

Business travel has now returned to more usual levels following the removal of Covid-19 restrictions. But are companies doing enough to look after their employees' wellbeing when they take trips for work?

That's the question HR teams now need to answer as they grapple with issues related to the return of domestic and international business travel.

Ongoing health issues (including long Covid), anxiety about meeting new people, increased caring responsibilities and environmental concerns must now be considered, far more so than pre-pandemic.

Research from American Express shows why HR's role here has expanded. More than half (55%) of business travellers say their wellbeing suffers when they travel too frequently, and seven in 10 (71%) even admit that they would leave a role if they felt their wellbeing wasn't sufficiently supported while they are away for work.

HR expert and author Teresa Boughey says that modern business travel policies must commit to employee wellbeing. "It's important to balance the benefits of face-to-face meetings with the disruption and potential trauma that people may experience because of travelling," she explains. "Employees need to be empowered to make travel decisions that are right for them."

Sophie Bryan is founder of consultancy and training organisation Ordinarily Different and agrees. She advises HR to work alongside travel managers to provide guidelines, training and resources to promote responsible practices.

"HR should recognise the impact of travel on mental health, and support employees in managing stress and maintaining work/life balance during trips," she adds.

Indeed, the need for a coordinated approach here might increase if the American Express research is anything to go by. It found that 42% of the companies surveyed plan to increase their business travel in the coming months, with 68% looking to ramp up spending in this area by 50% or more relative to current levels.



sanjeri via GettyImages

> **It's important to balance the benefits of face-to-face meetings with the potential trauma that people may experience**

And while 79% of businesses say they have started putting greater focus on employee wellbeing when travelling over the past two years, experts believe there is still much more to be done on the HR front.

Jarir Mallah is HR manager at language-learning service Ling App, which has more than 50 employees. He suggests that as business travel restarts in the wake of Covid, many HR teams will need to update their travel policies' wording and the liabilities covered.

"Everyone needs to become more aware of the mental and sometimes physical consequences of travel," he argues. "HR should have an open-door policy for employees to discuss any hesitations over company travel. They should be involved in the creation of any travel policies, either through a forum or a survey."

There are also many legal issues to be considered by CHROs and their teams. Yvonne Gallagher, employment partner at law firm Harbottle & Lewis, suggests that an individual suffering "substantial long-Covid symptoms" may be deemed to have a disability, given that by now these symptoms would likely have lasted more than 12 months.

"Obligations to make reasonable adjustments would apply," she advises. "If an individual is unfit to travel or it appears that travel – particularly long-haul – will worsen symptoms, then an employer should consider whether a reasonable adjustment can be made in the form of allowing meetings to take place remotely rather than face-to-face."

She explains that while it is permissible for employers to consider the benefits of in-person attendance, they shouldn't be seen to apply "hard and fast rules about travel where disability may be present". A disability could also be relevant when it comes to the needs of an employee's family member, she says.

Of course, if an employer believes that an employee is in breach of an obligation to "obey their employer's reasonable directions", HR's involvement could be critical. This would apply, Gallagher adds, if the employer has been clear about the need for business travel, can show that it is reasonably necessary, and is not seen to be behaving unreasonably when scheduling travel.

These days, HR departments are also more likely to encounter employee concerns over climate change – and may feel a duty to act on that. This could even be "put forward as a protected belief for the purposes of the Equality Act", Gallagher explains, although she stresses this is yet to be tested by way of a legal judgment.

Other relevant considerations for HR might include whether it is realistic to ask LGBTQ+ employees to travel to parts of the world where they may face discrimination.

This is where Ema Boccagni of global mobility specialist ECA International says risk assessments must now come in. These should consider the full risk profile of the traveller, including aspects such as age, sex, ethnicity and any underlying health conditions.

"Whether business travel sits under HR, operations or somewhere else entirely, it is essential the two disciplines share a strong relationship," she argues. "If the two are not working together in a concerted way, the efficiency of planning business travel is likely to be negatively affected."

One further way for HR to demonstrate a commitment to compliance is the introduction of a proactive risk assessment framework known as ISO 31030. Chris Job MBE, director of risk management services at Healix, calls this "the world's first 'best practice' benchmark for travel risk management".

He concedes that not all HR departments plan corporate trips, especially in larger companies with dedicated travel teams, but he acknowledges that HR's role after the Covid crisis has become more entrenched in ensuring employee safety outside the office.

"By demonstrating compliance with the ISO's end-to-end guidance, organisations can show that staff welfare and safety throughout the trip is the number-one priority," he says. "This can go a long way in allaying any pre-travel concerns and building employee trust."

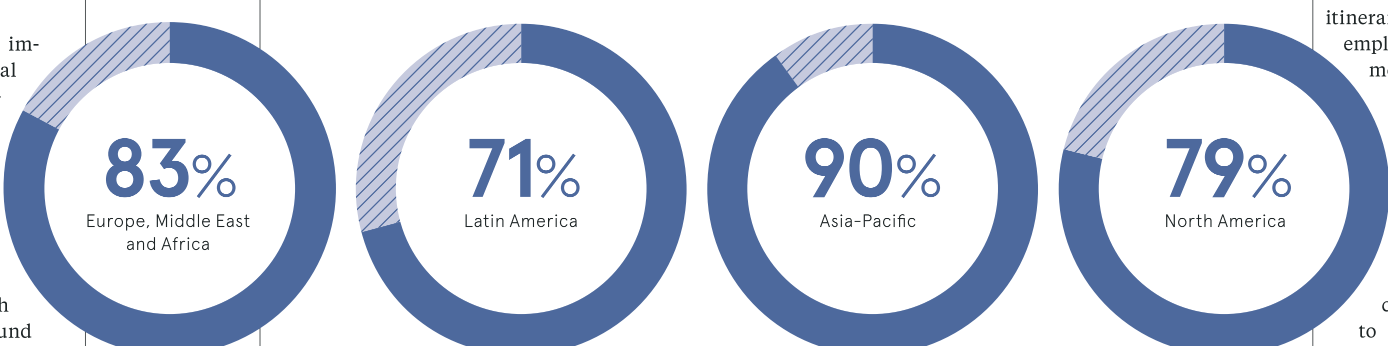
Job advises HR professionals and travel managers to pool their data for more individualised travel risk assessments. For instance, the specifics of long-term and high-risk business trips, such as location and itinerary, should be combined with employee profiles, including their medical considerations.

"HR leaders should involve employees by asking them about their concerns before an assignment," Job adds.

"With a personalised, accurate and interactive travel risk strategy in place, employees know that their company is doing its utmost to protect their health and safety and mitigate any threats associated with business trips."

MOST EMPLOYEES WORLDWIDE AGREE THAT BUSINESS TRAVEL AFFECTS THEIR WELLBEING

Percentage of employees who report that business travel affects their overall job satisfaction, by region



Global Business Travel Association, Sabre, 2022



Tom Werner via Getty Images

PRICING

Tickets, please! Making events more affordable for SMEs

Small businesses are keen to get back to attending business events after Covid, but it's often an expensive exercise. What needs to change to bring down the barriers to entry?

Crystal Wilde

Now that the World Health Organization has finally declared an end to Covid-19 as a global health emergency, 2023 is shaping up to be a big year for business events. SMEs, which arguably suffered the most during the pandemic, are keen to get back out there to the shoulder-rubbing and hand-shaking that only in-person events can provide.

Indeed, according to a survey by American Express, SMEs are planning more meetings and events than any other category of firm, with as many as 65% budgeting to spend more on such activities this year compared with 2022. After all, the rationale is obvious. Major conferences and industry events can be great opportunities for SMEs to network, promote their services and learn about new industry trends, best practices and innovations.

But in many cases, attending an event can be prohibitively expensive for SMEs, especially amid a cost-of-doing-business crisis. Routine event expenditures, such as food, transport and labour, have pushed up the overall cost of attendance significantly in recent months.

So, what can organisers and the SMEs themselves do to minimise these costs and make attending business events more realistic?

Ian Paynton is the co-founder and growth director of We Create Content, a content agency based in Hanoi which helps global brands enter the Asian market. He used to attend many business events in his previous role at a media company, but now he finds it hard to justify the cost as a business owner.

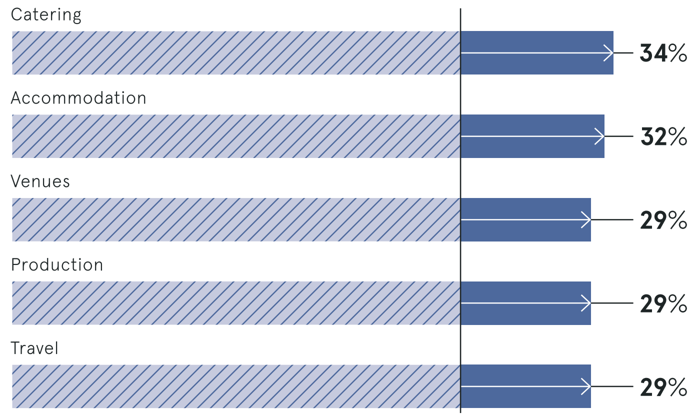
"I would like to go to more events in big regional hubs like Singapore, as that's typically where our clients are and it's important to me that we get out there, meet people and get some inspiration," he says. "But with the price of a ticket, airfare and accommodation, an event in Singapore can end up costing the equivalent of two or three people's monthly salary in Vietnam."

As a result, Paynton typically passes up on the most expensive events unless he can set up multiple meetings on the sidelines to make a trip more worthwhile.

> With the price of a ticket, airfare and accommodation, an event can end up costing the equivalent of two or three people's monthly salary

COMPARED WITH PRE-COVID, EVENT COSTS HAVE RISEN BY AS MUCH AS A THIRD

Average percentage increases in key event costs reported by corporate event planners worldwide, versus pre-pandemic levels



International Corporate Events, 2022

Other steps that SMEs can take to minimise the cost of attending business events include selecting those that require less travel, or booking tickets and accommodation early to secure competitive rates. They may also seek to share accommodation with other attendees, which reduces costs and increases the opportunities for networking.

Ellen Green is the founder of Blue Badge Co, a British company that makes and distributes living aids. She takes a strategic approach to attending business events, conducting thorough research to identify those that will offer the most value and negotiating discounts with the organisers. She often speaks on panels as a way to gain free entry and to reach a wider audience.

"When you're a small business, it's vital to make strategic decisions about allocating resources," says Green. "This may mean passing up on certain events in favour of others that offer a higher potential return on investment," she says.

That said, the onus will usually be on event organisers to proactively lower the barriers to entry for SMEs. Most offer early-bird discounts, and many provide packages combining tickets, accommodation and travel for firms with smaller budgets.

Working with sponsors is one way organisers can reduce the overall cost of their events, according to Jonathan Morse, CEO and founder of Tripleseat, a catering and event management platform. He urges planners to look beyond the traditionally sponsored items, such as lanyards and gift bags, and ask partners to sponsor other elements of the event, such as custom cocktails, photo booths, meals or activations.

For instance, the Beyond Expo, which attracts some of the brightest tech minds in Asia to Macau each year, encourages SMEs to become a sponsor to gain discounted access for themselves and their partners. At this year's event, the VIP dinner was sponsored by an up-and-coming alternative protein company. "At only cost price, their product reached over 300 C-suites, top management reps and investors," says Stanley Chong, director at TechNode Global, an activation partner of Beyond Expo. "On top of that, the media coverage generated a much higher return than they could have achieved on their own."

Technology is also increasingly important in cutting the cost of attending events for small businesses. For instance, machine learning can be used to analyse attendee data and feedback from events in order to allocate funds more precisely and reduce wasteful spending in future.

Michaela Jeffery-Morrison, CEO and co-founder of Ascend Global Media, the company behind the Women in Technology World Series, says she expects to see a raft of tech solutions bringing down the cost of events. "Venue sourcing technology with virtual walk-throughs can save time for organisers, registration technology can permit attendees to sign up easily, and onsite solutions can be used to manage and check-in attendees without fuss," she says.

SMEs can also use machine learning themselves to decipher which events offer the best return on investment. Meanwhile, the more familiar social media sites allow them to network and keep up with other attendees and attend conference events, sessions and activities virtually if preferred.

Ultimately, organisers will need to put in extra effort to make sure their events are worthwhile for SMEs. In his experience, for example, Paynton often found the keynotes uninspiring and the networking opportunities too surface-level.

"The speakers that the event features will go a long way to determine the value of attending," says Morse. Getting the networking opportunities right is just as important. "Give attendees time and opportunity to build solid relationships that can benefit their career and their company's success," he says.

Phoenix Porcelli, vice-president of meeting and event sales at meeting planner Convene, predicts that an increased focus on quality and affordability will lead to fewer, more meaningful events in the future.

"My advice to planners is to review why events are on and how you can reduce the number of events hosted, while creating more experiential, unique events that maximise participation," she says. ●

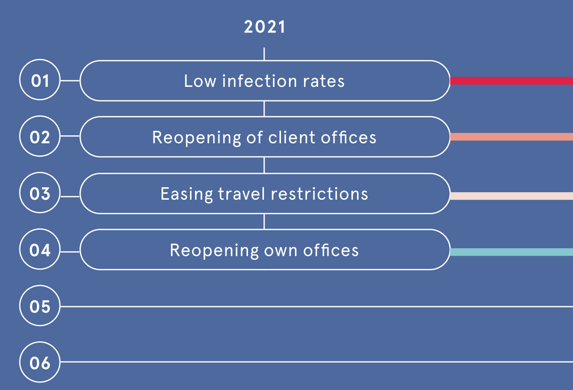
THE BUSINESS TRAVEL BOUNCEBACK

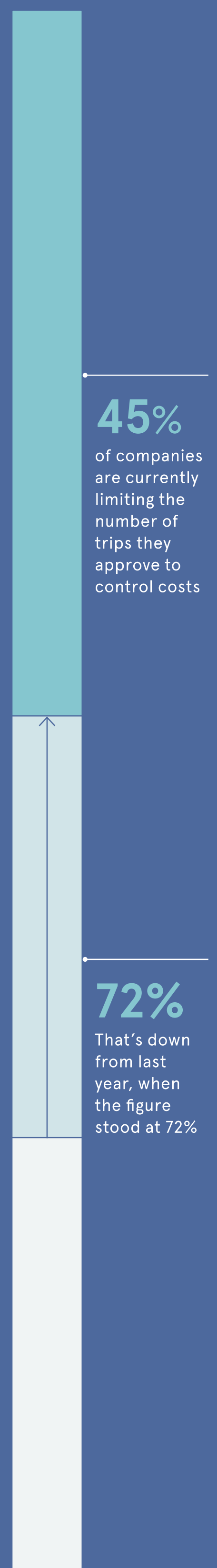
After a couple of years' enforced hiatus, business travel is back in a big way. But in the post-Covid world, it can prove an expensive exercise, especially for those keen to travel internationally. So, how are companies weighing the benefits against the rising costs?

Deloitte, 2023

LIVE EVENTS ARE NOW THE MAIN FACTOR DRIVING TH

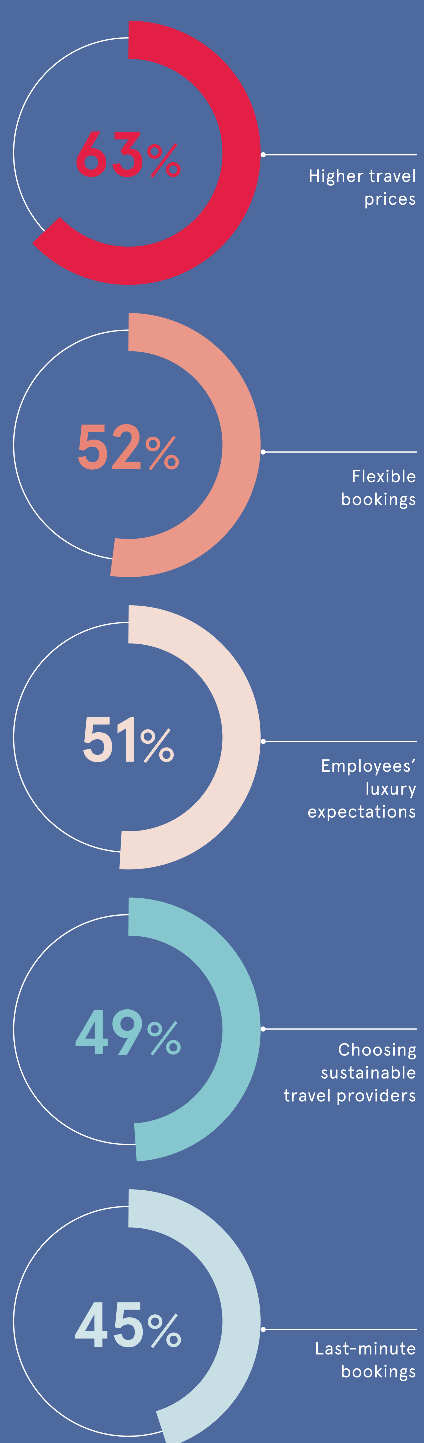
Top developments making business leaders more likely to travel, 20





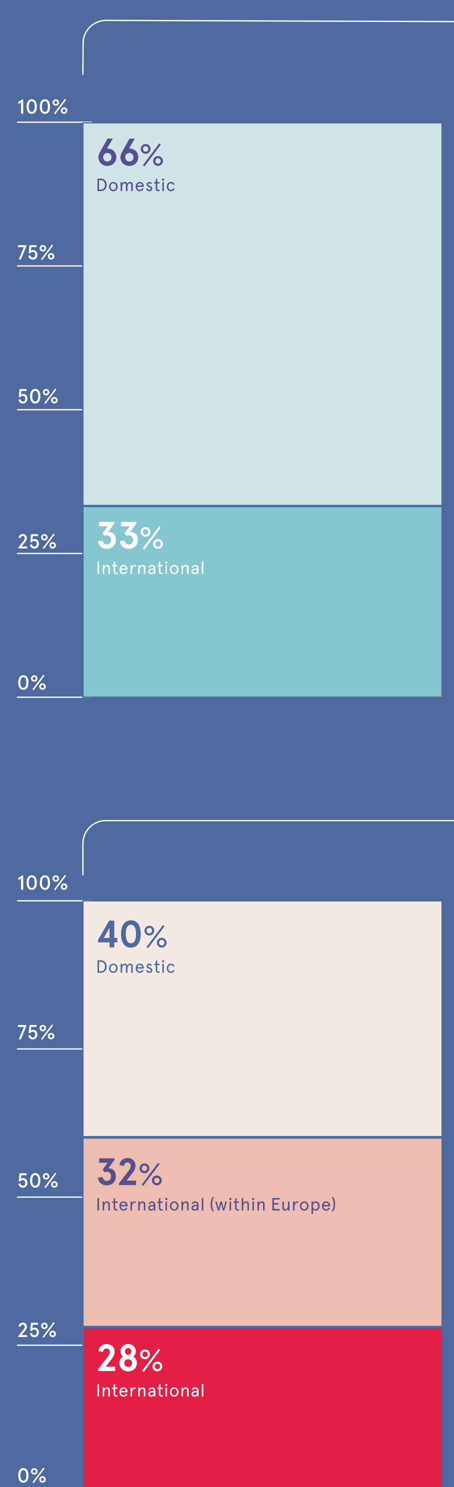
RISING PRICES AND THE NEED FOR FLEXIBLE BOOKINGS ARE HURTING BUDGETS

Top factors increasing business travel costs, 2023



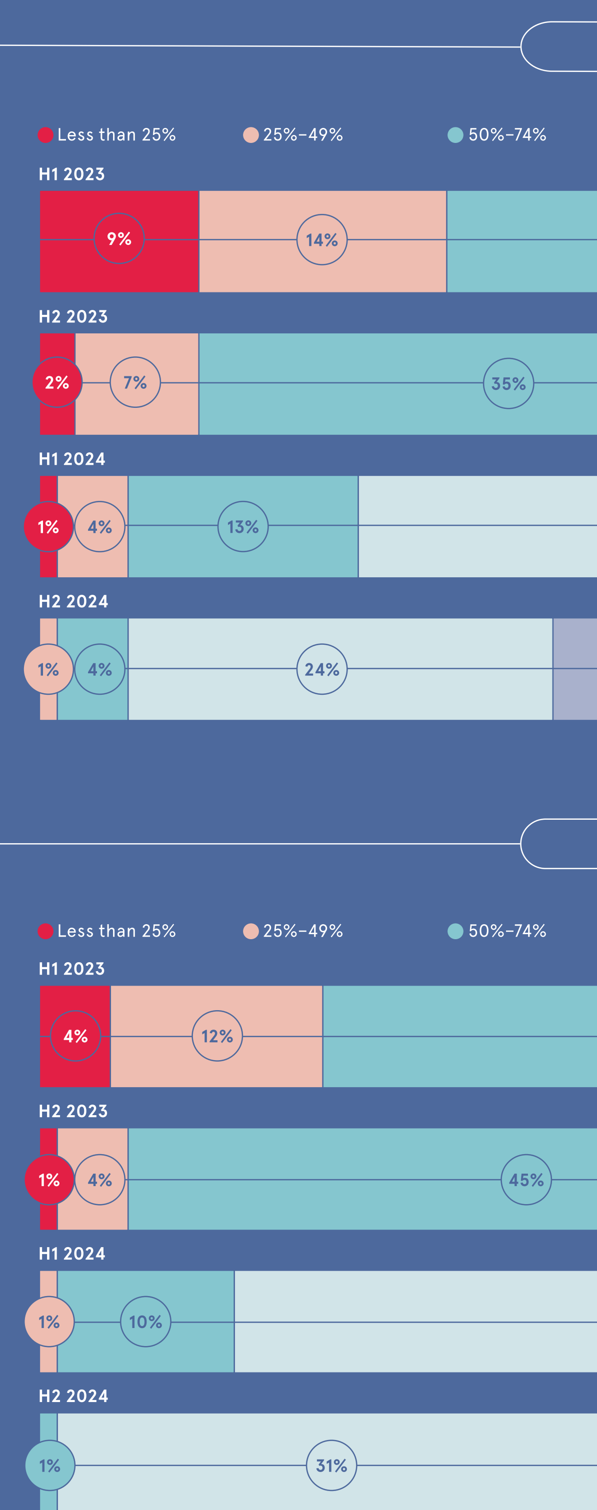
EUROPEANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO TRAVEL INTERNATIONALLY FOR BUSINESS

International travel as a share of corporate travel spend, 2023



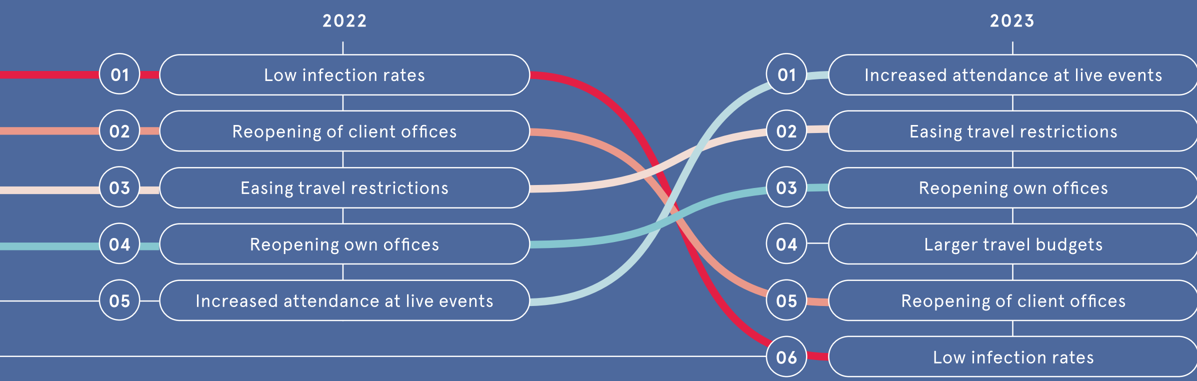
OVER THE NEXT 18 MONTHS, EUROPEAN FIRMS EXPEC

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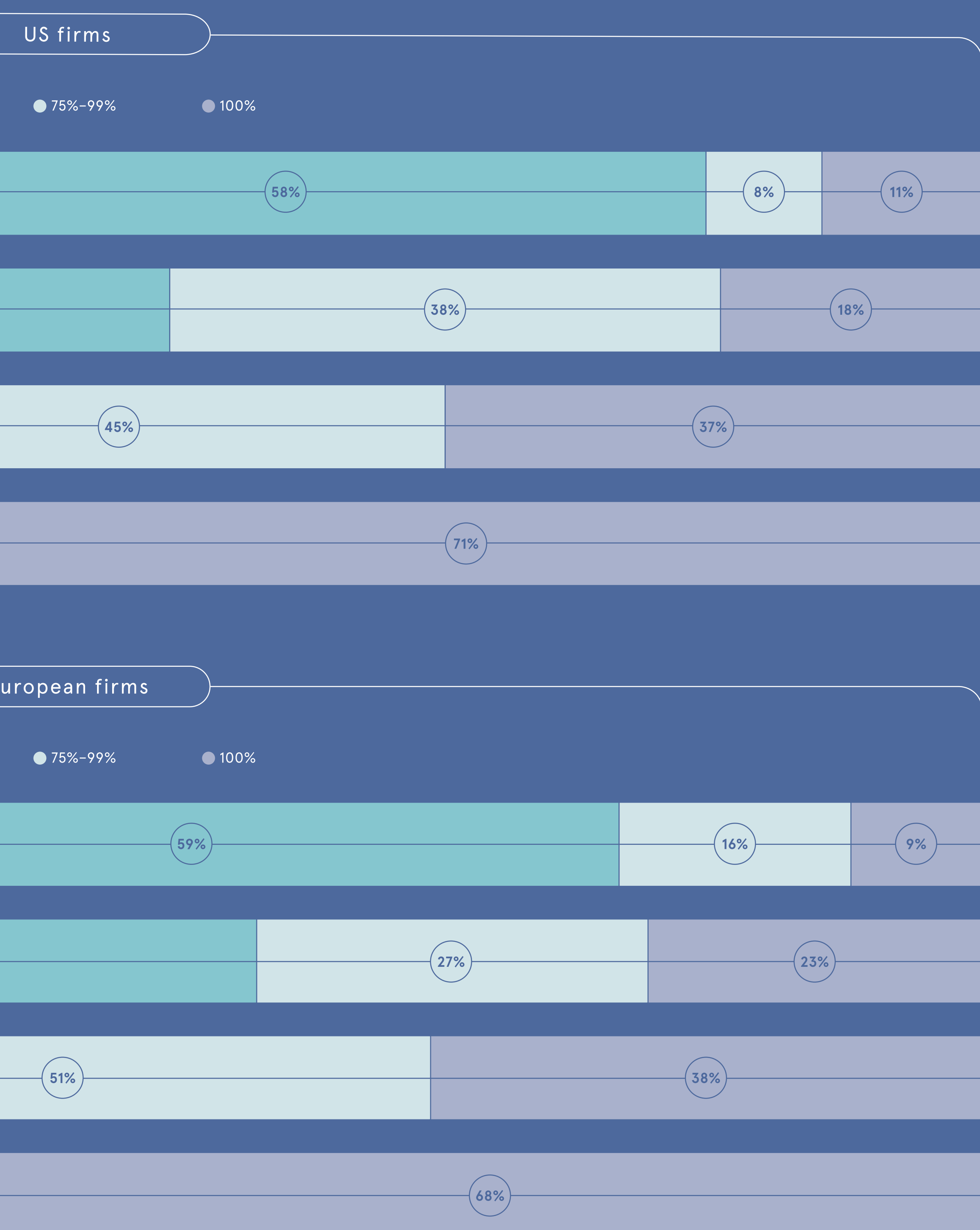
E RETURN OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS TRAVEL

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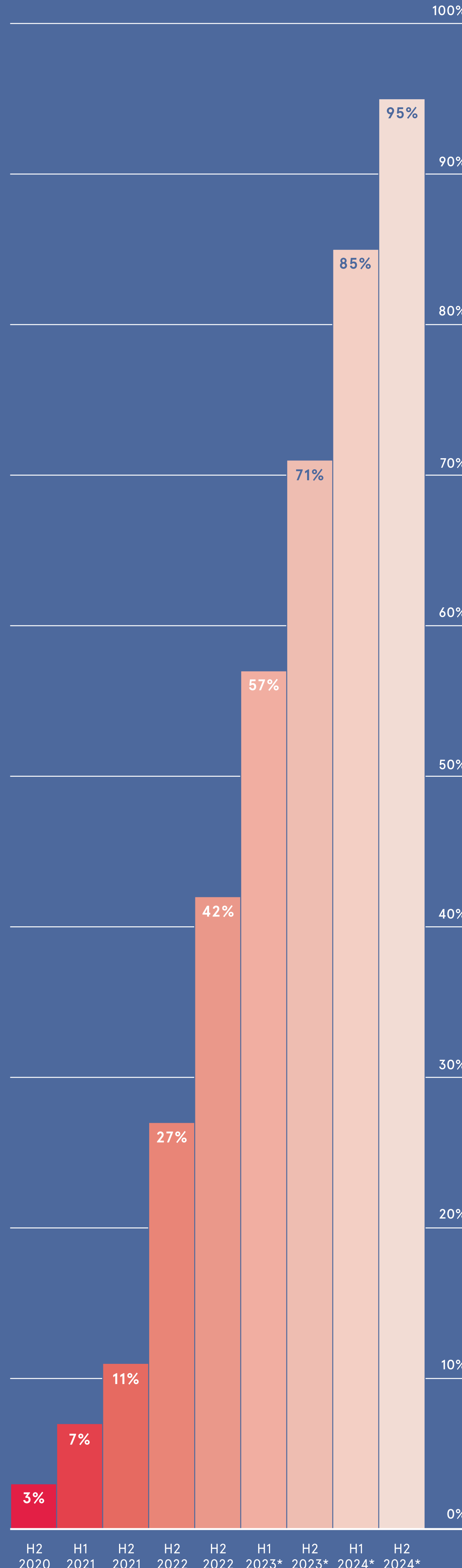
T A STEADIER RETURN TO BUSINESS TRAVEL THAN THEIR US PEERS

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BUSINESS TRAVEL SPEND IS LIKELY TO RETURN TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS OVER THE NEXT YEAR

Corporate travel spend as a percentage of 2019 budget, US and Europe
*Forecast



SUSTAINABILITY

A new MO for net zero?



The large but fragmented events sector has only just started its decarbonisation journey. To reach its ambitious goals, it will need to rethink some old habits

Cath Everett

If the events industry is to achieve its stated aim of cutting carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, it'll need to overhaul the prevailing mindset.

That's according to James Rees, executive director of London's ExCeL centre and president of the Joint Meetings Industry Council (JMIC), which represents the global business events sector.

Although Rees does not imagine it will be necessary to revamp this diverse, fragmented and complex industry from the ground up, participants across all sub-sectors will have to collaborate and work together more than ever before, he says.

"The change is more about mindset, which includes sharing best practice across all different parts of the industry," he explains. "So sustainable ideas that work in the exhibitions space can be taken and applied in the congress and meetings sectors. That will help to change the mentality around what was done in the past and what might be appropriate in the future."

Rees hopes that the Net Zero Carbon Events (NZCE) initiative, launched by the JMIC at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, will kick-start this change. To better understand the sustainability challenges the events industry faces, it has established five working groups to explore some of the sector's key priorities: venues' energy usage; products and waste; food and food waste; logistics; and travel and accommodation.

The NZCE is also tasked with addressing a range of common sustainability sticking points, from creating practical methodologies for emissions measurement and designing a common emissions reporting standard, through to weighing up the various rights and wrongs of carbon offsetting.

This work will feed into an industry-wide roadmap, the first iteration of which was published at COP27 in Egypt last November. Its aim is to provide guidelines and resources to help the events industry towards achieving net zero. The next tranche of work is due to be published at COP28 in Dubai in early December.

To focus the industry's attention yet further, the JMIC also launched its NZCE Pledge in November 2021. Some 550, mainly large players and a host of industry associations have already signed up. By doing so, they have promised to measure and track their Scope 1 (direct), Scope 2 (indirect) and Scope 3 (supply-chain) emissions. These firms have also committed to explain by the end of this year how they intend to both halve their greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero 20 years later, in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Pledge signatories will be expected to report on their progress every two years, while also working with their partners, suppliers and customers to facilitate and generate change throughout their value chains. Possible activities here include sharing information and best practice, particularly with small businesses.

Although the JMIC is not a regulatory body and so is unable to make the NZCE targets binding, Rees does believe that "the industry is crying out for this". Interest has mounted steadily since the pandemic. But he is also under no illusions about just how much of a shift the industry will need to make in order to achieve its sustainability goals. The journey here has only just begun.

One of the key challenges the sector faces is how best to encourage and support its large numbers of small players – many of whom are freelancers and one-man bands – to effect change. A significant concern for many here, particularly in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, is how much of an outlay the transition to net zero is likely to entail.

> "Audience travel has such a big impact, but because they can't control it, organisers wash their hands of the whole thing

But Rees says: "While there's an argument that sustainability costs more, if you're sensible and logical in your planning, you can reduce both your carbon impact and your costs, to make things cost-neutral. It's often just about changing your thinking around what's acceptable."

For example, if running a conference for, say, 200 delegates, organisers would traditionally order 200 vegetarian, 200 meat and 200 chicken dishes. This meant two-thirds of meals were simply thrown away.

How exhibition and event venue Olympia London tackles this situation today is to share any excess food with a local charity and food banks. What's more, it only purchases food from local suppliers and encourages all employees and catering partners to monitor and reduce their personal and corporate waste.

Ultimately though, whether small businesses are ready or not, change is coming, and coming quickly, believes Carina Bauer, chief executive of event management company The Imex Group.

"There are a few very large players and they're moving very fast, which will have a massive impact on the supply chain," she explains. "So, as these big organisations start purchasing lower-carbon products

and that becomes normalised, smaller companies will have to get on board, which means things will shift naturally."

Julie Driscoll, Olympia London's chief executive, agrees. The organisation is currently changing its procurement processes to require its suppliers to demonstrate their sustainability credentials, which includes signing the NZCE pledge.

It is also using its bonus structure to incentivise employees to prioritise hitting sustainability targets and to embed them in their day-to-day working practices. These objectives are monitored by a 'Grand Plan' taskforce, set up by Olympia's head of sustainability.

"Anyone with a specific bonus scheme has to show evidence of how they've achieved our Grand Plan objectives, and it's part of every single performance review," explains Driscoll. "It has to be a key part of the conversation because, if it's top of mind, people will ask suppliers the right questions. Conversation by conversation and meeting by meeting, that's how you drive real change."

A further challenge, however, relates to attendee travel and accommodation. Although typically the largest single contributor to an event's carbon footprint, it is also the factor over which events organisers have the least control.

As a result, the NZCE's roadmap currently recommends that organisers include such emissions when calculating the overall carbon footprint of their event – but they may be excluded from Scope 3 calculations. This policy will be reviewed in two years' time.

Rees explains: "Travel and accommodation is one of our workstreams but, in truth, we don't have the answers on how to deal with the situation right now. We're debating and discussing and looking at what we can do, but it's very difficult to provide a firm plan at this point."

> **Conversation by conversation and meeting by meeting, that's how you drive real change**

Anna Abdelnoor is chief executive of Isla, a non-profit organisation founded in 2020 by events professionals to provide practical guidance and support on environmental issues. She believes that moving the focus away from travel for the moment is not altogether a bad thing.

"Sometimes people feel that audience travel has such a big impact, but because they can't control it, they wash their hands of the whole thing," she says. "It's a common narrative but it misses the many things the industry can do elsewhere."

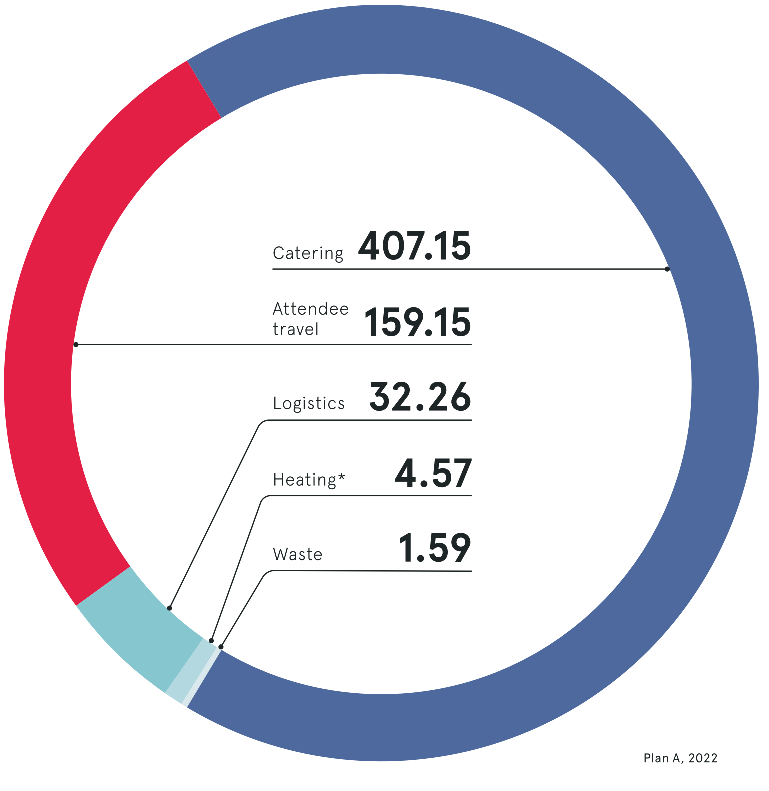
This includes focusing on using biodegradable, compostable and recyclable rather than single-use materials. It also means repurposing exhibition stands rather than throwing them away at the end of a conference, and using renewable energy wherever possible.

Despite these challenges, Rees believes that the industry should be able to meet its goals over time.

"I think it's doable. As Nelson Mandela said: 'It always seems impossible until it's done.' So we may not have all the answers just yet, but the industry is already making big strides," he concludes. ●

IF AN EVENT DOES NOT REQUIRE LONG-DISTANCE ATTENDEE TRAVEL, FOOD WILL BE THE MAIN SOURCE OF EMISSIONS

Scope 3 emissions breakdown of a consciously sustainable event, in kg CO_2e
**Figure represents an event hosted during the summer*



Plan A, 2022

Commercial feature

Low-carbon meetings demand creative thinking

With meetings and events back in full swing and with strong demand on show around the globe, decarbonising events is now imperative. That means it's time to think outside the box

For businesses worldwide, made up of increasingly dispersed workforces and taking part in more digital interactions than ever before, getting together face-to-face has never been so important. Future business productivity depends on energising and engaging employees, networking, embedding corporate culture and retaining staff – an alchemy that's best achieved by meeting in-person.

However, such activities come at a cost, and with many companies now committed to net zero and slashing emissions, the focus is on how the carbon footprint of events can be reduced over time.

"Businesses need to balance the current strong desire to return to face-to-face meetings with the need to be more environmentally conscious. It's a dilemma for the corporate planner," explains Ian Cummings, global head of CWT Meetings & Events, a leading international business travel and meetings specialist.

"Right now, budgets for crucial corporate get-togethers that boost corporate productivity are being protected," he continues. "The challenge is how we can manage them more effectively. How do we make them more efficient and sustainable, generating fewer emissions? The future of corporate travel depends on it."

Simply going online won't cut it either. For instance, a 2023 survey of 475 UK businesses by the Business Travel Association found that just over three-quarters of businesses (79%) still prefer in-person meetings to virtual ones.

"But at the same time, two-thirds of our customers tell us that sustainability goals are top of their priority list," says Cummings. "The pandemic has been a catalyst for change, yet it's a fine balance."

> **Businesses need to balance the current strong desire to return to face-to-face meetings with the need to be more environmentally conscious**


Attendees sample crickets at an event promoting sustainable food sources

From measurement to fresh ideas

Cummings offers the following solution: "Greater sustainability monitoring, as well as a more proactive approach, can square the circle between business meetings and ESG." It's a familiar approach at CWT, which managed more than 2.2 million people attending 15,810 events in 2022, across six continents, and is on track to organize more than 30,000 meetings and events this year.

After all, out of all the categories of corporate carbon emissions, travel is one of the most easily quantifiable. Extensive data analytics now allows businesses to monitor – via detailed methodologies and sophisticated calculators – individuals' carbon budgets and also those of specific meetings and events.

"It starts with measurement. You can then make choices to bring down the climate impact of a meeting, whether that means staying at a newer hotel that uses less energy, switching to an airline that deploys more efficient aircraft, pooling ground transportation, using electric vehicles, or choosing destinations that are more strategically located to reduce the collective emissions for travelling participants," explains Cummings, who heads up more than 1,000 CWT employees across 43 countries.

And the decisions that businesses take can make a real difference, whether it's reducing food waste at event dinners in hotels, choosing suppliers that use renewable energy or working with businesses that have their own strong emissions reduction targets.

"This is about sending a message to those employees who are taking these trips that this issue is being taken seriously. And to do that, we encourage clients to be imaginative when it comes to ESG. For instance, why not deploy a local chef at an event, who can guide corporate guests in preparing food which would otherwise go to waste for their own evening menu? This sends a clear message about sustainability and authenticity, while also enabling networking," says Cummings.

Going forwards, CWT's aim is to encourage and promote urban centres, hotels, airlines and ground transport providers who take sustainability seriously, especially those that are leading the way in pitching themselves as low-carbon destinations. Many of these are less popular, secondary cities.

And that's not the only upside of getting serious about sustainability. With the right long-term planning, event organisers can save money, reduce their carbon footprint and make a real difference.

"This is a rallying call for meeting and event organisers. It is up to us all, including the travel and meetings industry, to be creative, to think outside the box, to offer lower-carbon alternatives and to realise a future that is good for the planet, people and value creation. We are only at the early stages of this journey, with a long way to go," concludes Cummings.

Find out how CWT Meetings & Events can help you create a more sustainable meetings and events strategy: cwt-meetings-events.com

CWT Meetings & Events



d3sign via Gettyimages

BUDGETING

Trip counter

New ways to calculate ROI are helping firms see the true cost of their business trips. So, how can they get more for their money?

Nick Easen

Try to book a last-minute, premium economy seat on a flight from Europe to China for your sales team lead. You'll likely be met with eye-watering ticket prices.

Two questions will probably spring to mind in this scenario. Is taking on this cost – and generating all of those emissions – really justifiable? And couldn't the meeting just be done virtually anyway?

With inflation, supply constraints and high demand pushing up travel prices, these are questions that businesses are increasingly reconsidering, as the return on investment (ROI) of business travel comes under intense scrutiny. Their answers, though, can go either way.

"If we don't go in-person to a sales pitch, our competitors will," explains Will Jackson, managing director of Zalaris UK, a payroll and HR services firm. After all, client acquisition is often a sure-fire way to get a trip signed off, since it feeds the bottom line. That's why the race to win new sales has driven much of the global business travel recovery.

But the cost-benefit analysis here is something that even the largest global enterprises are finding difficult. CEOs and CFOs are understandably frustrated by what they see as a lack of credible mechanisms by which to judge travel budgeting decisions. Business trips have historically been treated as part and parcel of the cost of doing business, qualified but not quantified, budgeted for, but not totally justified.

"It's fiendishly difficult to calculate the ROI of some trips," says Tom Housden, CEO of Hand & Eye Studio, a UK-based lighting company. "If we exhibit our products in New York, we may not see sales until six or nine months down the line. Word of mouth might generate interest in our business, but that's not specifically attributable to the exhibition. So it's never black and white when it comes to budgeting."

Therein lies the rub. If corporate trips aren't directly focused on winning business, keeping top talent within the company, strengthening client relationships or visiting vital operations overseas, then there are lots of grey areas in determining whether that travel budget is being spent wisely.

"Our research shows that 25% to 30% of business trips are of low value," says Scott Gillespie, CEO of tClara, a travel advisory service. "Eliminating these trips would do little or no economic harm to the organisation. At the same time, low-value trips can be predicted before booking with 75% accuracy."

On that front, there's now a raft of tools to help companies make better decisions on trip ROI, ranging from pre-, mid- and post-event surveys to various data-capture platforms. Yet none represents an independent gold standard across the travel industry. Cynics would argue that it's not in the interest of the sector to create a comprehensive tool since it would see the number of trips slashed, affecting their bottom line.

Cynicism aside, because a lot of information can now be processed about any flight, hotel, restaurant or ground transportation booking, businesses are able to evaluate their trips in far greater detail.

"We're also seeing greater integration of travel and expense policies, which means companies can report on the true cost of winning a deal, from the plane ticket to the dinner," says Fred Stratford, CEO of travel management company Reed & Mackay. "And with more granular sustainability data, we can even begin to wrap in the CO_2 impact."

Any remaining opacity, therefore, lies within organisations, their specific budgets, allocations and decision-making processes.

There is also a large, long-standing void of data about the true value of any business trip. Data of this kind is rarely, if at all, shared with the business travel industry and travel management companies.

> It's fiendishly difficult to calculate the ROI of some trips. It's never black and white

Another fundamental challenge with calculating ROI is that not all business travel directly feeds the bottom line or is financially motivated. "Downstream benefits might be revealed at a later time, by way of a contribution to corporate social responsibility goals, greater ability to attract and retain talent, or increased employee engagement and productivity," explains Richard Johnson, head of the global solutions group at travel management company CWT Meetings & Events.

Nevertheless, CFOs and other senior executives can't afford to abandon their discipline when it comes to deciding who travels and why – especially as the economy tightens.

For instance, Zalaris UK's Jackson believes that since the Covid crisis, employees have been using business trips to fill the social gaps in their professional lives, having sorely missed these interactions during the lockdowns. With many more executives now working from home, there is pent-up demand to be sociable, and employees will find just about any way to justify a trip.

"The solution to valuing a business meeting is to ask the traveller or their manager to set a cost at which the trip can no longer be justified," says Gillespie. "And the key to maximising the return on a travel budget is to prevent low-value trips and invest in high-value trips."

The question, then, is how much of a return is required. The direction of travel appears to be towards raising the bar, ensuring every trip counts and ticks multiple boxes: sales, networking, innovation, visiting overseas operations, and even incorporating leisure.

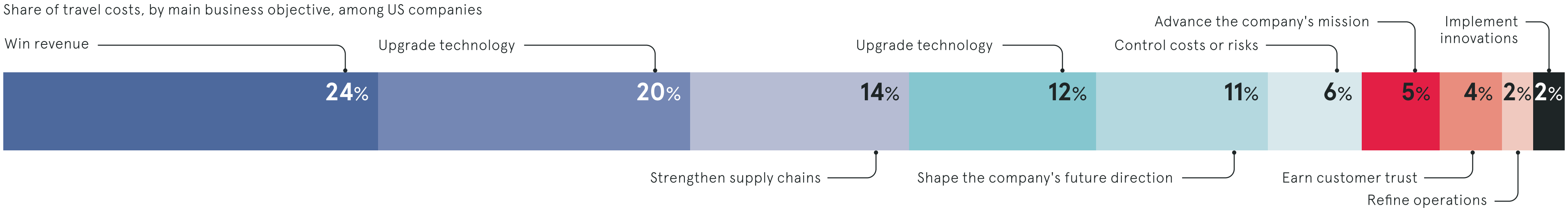
"If companies encourage 'purpose amplification' when travelling, the ROI to the company is also amplified and more justified," points out Paul Tilstone, managing partner at travel consultancy Festive Road. "So, for example, staying an extra day at a conference where you're marketing your products, and visiting some clients or someone innovating in your space can help with this process."

It's a change of mindset which could make a big difference when budgets are tight. ●

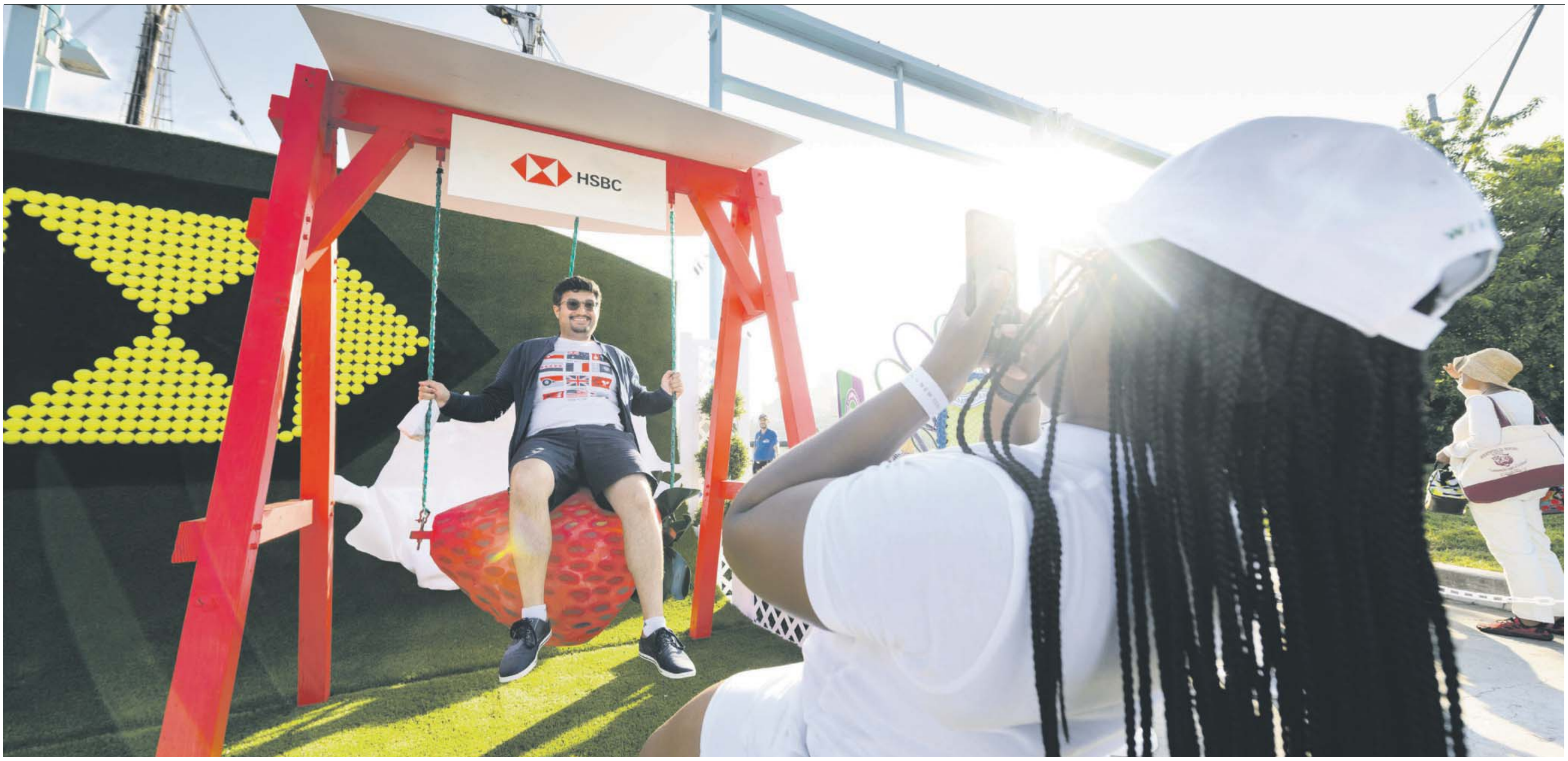
TRAVEL SPEND IS MOTIVATED BY A WIDE RANGE OF BUSINESS OBJECTIVES

tClara, 2023

Share of travel costs, by main business objective, among US companies



Commercial feature



Creative and emotional events drive business value

The power of emotion has huge potential for the meetings and events industry, but to make it work, organisers will have to embrace a new way of thinking

Today, it's more important than ever to know your events are driving business value, since budgets are receiving unprecedented levels of scrutiny. For instance, now that prices for flights, hotels and venues are sky-high, management teams are questioning the money they ringfence for these expenses. Post-pandemic, video-conferencing offers a fall-back option for connecting staff, and there are questions to answer about the sustainability of get-togethers. That's why every corporate event must be worth it.

> **We know that meetings, exhibitions and experiences are a great place to spark unified emotion, which is highly effective in changing behaviour and perceptions**

In an age where productivity is more easily measured and when many employees are time-poor, dragging executives off for three days of back-to-back PowerPoint presentations in a dimly lit hotel room to be force-fed company culture is a questionable investment at best. Yet in an attempt to provide cost-effective, functional and pragmatic corporate events, this is often what happens. Reimagining this format is therefore an imperative.

"Emotional, exciting, creative experiences sound expensive and there is a temptation for bosses to scale back on creativity in this phase of the economic cycle. Yet research tells us that these memorable moments actually make a difference. Impactful experiences are powerful, driving value and strong returns to the business. They're far from fluffy," explains Katie Streten, head of creative strategy at WRG, a leading global experiential agency.

Energise events with emotion

With disparate, globalised workforces and many employees working from home, so-called 'energising events' that bring people together for a memorable moment are being deployed by those businesses that have the budgets to invest. They realise the power of emotions to heighten people's attention, create memories and drive new patterns of behaviour. Enlightened businesses are therefore using different metrics to evaluate their events' expenditure.

"We know that meetings, exhibitions and experiences are a great place to spark unified emotion, which is highly effective in changing behaviour and perceptions, delivering value to individual attendees, as well as creating a long-term business impact. This is backed up by behavioural science and real-world evidence. But this involves evaluating meetings in a different way," says Jessica Holt, senior behavioural science consultant at WRG and one of the company's more than 200 experiential experts in the UK and US.

Beyond net promoter scores and whether an attendee would recommend an event, companies are now looking at meetings from a behavioural and psychological perspective, seeing whether there are shifts in people's outlook and intentions after the event has finished.

"When corporations organise meetings, they often focus on the 'who', the 'where' and the 'when', with a mindset locked in on logistics and operations. There's a lot of investment in the physical elements of the delivery, yet the 'why', the 'what' and the 'how' are often an afterthought," says Holt.

"Key questions should include: why are you ultimately bringing people together? What attitudes or behaviours do you want to drive to support the business or brand? How might you engage individuals to positively influence those behaviours and perceptions? This is where focusing on emotions and what they can deliver can help. Unfortunately, many decision-makers divorce emotions from business, yet we buy into brands, workplaces and corporate culture for all kinds of emotional reasons."

Intentional creativity is worth the investment

Often, businesses approach meetings and events organisers way too late in the organising process. Budgets are allocated, decisions are made, timelines are set, all with CEO sign-off, without initially considering the real objectives, outcomes and terms of engagement. This constrains meetings and events before they've even got off the ground.

"Certainly, businesses need to start prioritising emotion and the power that it can bring to an event early on. This way, organisers can understand what types of emotion they want to trigger and how this can be achieved. Emotional cues are different for each audience, whether focused on promoting new products or a brand vision. Once corporations go down the creative and emotional route, this can help teams to start thinking outside the box," says Streten.

"Having an upfront strategic approach focused on behavioural outcomes is essential. Research shows that intentional creativity for meetings and events really does work if it's based on behavioural science, calibrating intentions and delivering outcomes. This also creates a virtuous circle focused on the art of the possible. Creative events deliver powerful business outcomes."

For more on experiences, go to: wrglive.com

Pharma leadership team leans into awe

Senior leadership meetings run the risk of being extremely dry, purely because there's so much business-critical information to convey. Yet they're a critical opportunity to inspire and motivate key leaders when they're all together in one place.

A global pharmaceutical client wanted their event to go beyond sharing insights about their latest innovations. For this event, WRG leant into the emotion of awe and located the event in Iceland. This provided the life-sciences company with a rare chance to use the dramatic landscape as a backdrop, deploying the opportunity to see the Northern Lights and a glacier as a way of inspiring the leadership team.

That feeling of awe would then be associated with brand vision and certain key learning moments in the memories of the attendees.

The Harpa Concert Hall in Reykjavík was used as a breathtaking setting for this event. With world-leading sustainability credentials, it provided a memorable backdrop for sessions that were creatively delivered. For instance, instead of dry slides, statistics and presentations divorced from their emotional value, the event included real-life patients.

After the event, 99% of attendees reported a positive experience and 86% felt inspired to lead their teams through the next chapter of their business evolution.

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TIMES2
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Khaki really is the new black

Fashion editor Harriet Walker on the shade of the summer

From left: Milan Fashion Week; Harriet Walker wears jumpsuit, beyondnine.co.uk; influencer Gitta Banko

Help the rich — kill your pets. That way celebs can keep flying in private jets

Carol Midgley



GETTY IMAGES

It's a sad day today because it seems I must get rid of my dog and cat.* Yes, a bit of a downer, but it's the right thing to do. Because owning pets is as bad for the environment as using private jets, says — checks notes — the chief executive of a private jet company.

Who could pick a hole in that? Patrick Hansen, of the Luxembourg-based company, has rejected criticism that his industry is a prime planet-wrecker, claiming that pets pollute as much as, if not more than, a celebrity popping to St Tropez for lunch. Though not quite in those words.

He said one of his company's customers produces about 2.1 tonnes of CO_2 per year — about the same amount as three cats. A spokesperson later clarified that he had meant three dogs. Dogs, budgies — who cares? You know what you must do. Help a rich person and euthanise your pet. Off you go, Tiddles. Off you go, Fido, to the vet and over the rainbow bridge. Your death won't be in vain. With less Sheba and Winalot needed for you, you see, there will be more carbon footprint credit to go round should a bored Kardashian or Beckham fancy changing continents for some shoe shopping.

Come on, gran. We know that little Jack Russell is your main companion, but hand it over for the old leg shave. There's a busy man here who draws the line at standing with the plebs in a British Airways queue. I couldn't bear it if the existence of my dog and cat meant, for instance, that Meghan and Harry had to slum it in first class on an ordinary jumbo jet. Have you ever tried calling your therapist from one of those things? Nightmare. I haven't been more convinced by an argument since Madonna (net worth $860 million) sat in a rose petal bath and declared the Covid pandemic "the great equaliser".

Of course some moaning Minnies will dismiss this as the tone-deaf wealthy being selfish and out of touch. It's on a par, they'll say, with Donald Trump (another PJ fan, bigly) saying that he was a self-made man who started with just a "very small $1 million loan" from his father. Or when all those delegates flew to the Cop27 conference to pull sad faces about



global warming … in 400 private jets. But ask yourself: do you want to live in a world where Jeff Bezos and the like *can't* have a superyacht with its own support yacht with helipad? What if he needs to get to dry land quickly to deal with a PR hitch, such as another unfavourable report about Amazon's carbon footprint?

Hansen was reportedly referring to a book called *How Bad Are Bananas?* by Mike Berners-Lee, which states that a household cat is responsible for 310kg of carbon emissions per year, and a dog for about 700kg. However, Berners-Lee emailed a newspaper to say he was "surprised and disappointed to hear data from my book being used to defend the bogus eco claims made by Luxaviation". So there's that. I suppose it also depends whether you think humans are the only creatures on this earth entitled to have emissions.

And I do see another small flaw in the argument. A lot of private jet users also have pets. Indeed, they take their pets on their private jets. Johnny Depp, for instance, spent $320,000 sending his Yorkshire terriers from Australia to LA on a private plane. So tricky, isn't it?

But let's not tarry. Bottom line: your good boy labrador kills as many polar bears as a flying Chelsea tractor. Allegedly. Still, he's had a good life, hasn't he? He'll be glad to snuff it for such a worthy cause.

*This is a joke, to be clear, in case they're reading.

No wood without trees

Plymouth council has cut down trees to stop people having sex outdoors. Well, that's my holiday plans ruined. The palm trees were "butchered" to deter people from using them as cover to take drugs and fornicate weeks after 110 mature trees were felled in the city centre, causing a national outcry.

Hmm. The council hasn't thought this through again, has it? People won't stop having sex because trees are gone. They'll just go somewhere else to do it. Will council officers then follow them, massacring vegetation in a game of "shag whack-a-mole"?

Why not tackle the root cause and fine them? Or get community officers involved? Or plant stinging nettles? It's like knocking down your house because vandals keep breaking the windows. If they move on to doing it in cars, what will the council do then — start crushing Ford Fiestas? Which tees us up for my weekly joke: "I tried dogging in Devon this week. I don't drive, but you should have seen the look on the taxi driver's face."

Spare me a booze warning

I'm visiting Ireland in a few months, so I assume I'll be served a glass of Guinness with a photo of a nose like an exploded beetroot.

Ireland is becoming the first country to put health warnings on alcohol, presumably replicating the shock images on cigarette packets. So your cocktail will come on a beer mat featuring a barnacled, cirrhotic liver.

Will it stop people drinking? I'd say no. Everyone knows booze is bad for you. We're told every day. Who would order a bottle of wine, then cry: "But it says here that this isn't very healthy and increases the risk of losing self-control! Why wasn't I told before?"

Still, alcohol content info might be useful. In a bar I saw a man inquiring about the ABV of beer in every tap. He picked the highest because, given the prices now, he wanted one to "get drunk fast".

A main course for £30!? How eating out became a luxury



Prices are soaring in restaurants, and not just because of food inflation, chefs and owners tell Harry Wallop

It was not £35 for a tiny quail that tipped me over edge but £9 for some bread. Nine pounds! Hands up: the restaurant was in Harrods, a department store that relishes adding zeros to price tags. But rarely have I felt more like one of those dimwitted posh customers in the Harry Enfield sketch in which he runs a shop called I Saw You Coming. My wife wondered if the bread rolls would arrive with hidden silver coins like a Christmas pudding.

And it's not just in Knightsbridge — eating out has become very expensive. Country pubs, the local Italian, hamburger joints and brasseries with no aspirations to get Michelin stars are increasingly charging prices that make diners say: "How much?!"

We all have our breaking point. Mine was £9 for bread, for others it might be £4.50 for a small bowl of olives or £65 for a Dover sole.

Alex Micu is a photographer who reckons he eats out at "no-fuss places" twice a week. A few weeks ago he popped into the Chamberlayne, a pub in north London that has been revamped, axing its simple menu of £13 pizzas and swapping it for something a bit more substantial; he was quite excited by the prospect of a good new gastropub in his neighbourhood. "We ordered some drinks and browsed the menu. Then we saw the £19 burger."

For him, anything over £12 for a burger is "toppy", and the fact the pub's bavette steak, also £19, came without chips or vegetables was a deal-breaker.

Of course, value is subjective — Claridge's sells a burger for £40 — but even in pubs and local bistros the price of many main courses has edged up from the £20 mark to closer to £30.

The hike is particularly painful given that, according to CGA by NIQ, a research company that tracks our habits, 40 per cent of us dine in a pub or restaurant every week.

The restaurateurs, for their part, say that if we are feeling the pain, spare a thought for them. "The margins in restaurants have always been tight — phenomenally tight," says Simon Wood, 46, the winner of *MasterChef* in 2015 and founder of the WOOD restaurant in Manchester. "The oil in my fryer is more expensive than unleaded at Shell." He says 20 litres of vegetable oil now costs £60, which is about twice the price of fuel.

His restaurant offers a £110 tasting menu, but upstairs he has Homage, a wine bar where he serves a board of five cheeses, crackers, bread and chutney, accompanied by five different glasses of wine for £25. "That is a bargain," he says. Not all his diners agree, however. A few weeks ago a woman asked for butter to go with her cheese. "It's not on the menu. We explained we'd charge for it. She left happy, but the next day she put a story on Instagram about how outrageous it was." The post and Wood's defence soon went viral, with one claiming: "£2.50 for some butter to go with a cheese board is mental."

His response? "Food is not free, crockery is not free, labour is not free, dishwashers are not free, butter is not free." He adds: "A box of butter [containing 25 packs] four months ago was £36; it is now £84." And that bargain cheeseboard and wine selection? As of June 1, it will be £30.

It's not just ingredients that are driving up his prices — it is staff wages, costs for importing wine, rents and, particularly, gas and electricity. Wood says his energy bill last month

MARCUS PUMMER/MADAME FIGARO/CAMERA PRESS



was £13,400. "I am thinking about every aspect of my menu, every dish and every process … if I have a braised piece of beef that has to be in the oven all night, it's a 'no'."

Stuart Procter is the chief operating officer of the Stafford Collection, which owns various establishments including Sicilian-inspired Norma in central London. "We've taken monkfish off the menu," he says. "The price to buy it has just gone off the charts. If we were to make any margin on it it would have to be on the menu at £50 or £60. That might work in Mayfair, but that's not what Norma is about." His main courses cost between £24 and £45.

He says Norma is insulated to an extent by international travellers coming to London, which is still good value compared with many other European cities. "If you think we are expensive, you should look at Paris. Wow, that's expensive."

Anything involving seafood has rocketed in price. There's a rice dish with five prawns at Lisboeta in west London priced at £49; salt-baked sea bass at Rick Stein's in Padstow, Cornwall — to share between two — is £80. The Lobster Shack in North Berwick, along the coast from Edinburgh, attracts a cult audience. It is, as the name suggests, a kiosk with some windswept tables sheltered by a perspex roof. In 2011 a whole lobster cost £16.50. This year it is £47.95. Nudging £50 is the moment where any dish, however amazing, starts to become more about the price than the food. Can you really enjoy it at that price point?

To stay profitable some restaurants have become more inventive with their menus, offering not just starters, but also "snacks" or "bites".

> **Crockery is not free, labour is not free, butter is not free**

"I don't think it's hoodwinking customers at all," says Kateline Porritt, head of trends at the restaurant consultancy Egg Soldiers. "It's trying to offer them something else. But maybe that's where you see the bill creep. They are not a full starter, but you end up ordering them because you get excited and get loads to share."

If you are suffering from bill shock at the end of your meal, blame the snacks. And the bread. Porritt says along with a plethora of fancy bread and butter courses, anchovies have become a cult ingredient, partly because of their relatively low cost. "They have loads of flavour, but they are ultimately just tinned fish."

She mentions she had a great meal at Noble Rot in Soho last week and was struck by the anchovy dish. "It was £11, I think, for just five anchovies. They were very good," she laughs. "But I was grateful I wasn't paying."

Canny restaurants are increasingly offering no or limited-choice set-price menus, Porritt says, so that they can buy "higher volumes of a smaller number of ingredients and they can streamline their labour", thus keeping menu prices down. "There are people in the industry who really want to avoid that bill shock — because they want repeat customers."

The Palmerston in Edinburgh, which specialises in nose-to-tail food, has a full menu in the evening but an £18 two-course or £21 three-course lunchtime deal. You have no choice, and the dishes tend to be off-cuts from the evening's ingredients, but that's still remarkably good value. "We wanted to have a busy restaurant rather than one that makes me loads of money," says Lloyd Morse, its chef and co-founder. It seems to be working. On Tuesday he served 67 covers for lunch, filling every table at least once over. He says some prices in London are "complete madness, but we're not London. Our rents are far cheaper."

Even in London's elite corner of the Monopoly board there are some who reckon it is possible to offer value-for-money with a set menu. Bellamy's, a grand old dame in Mayfair that was frequented by the Queen, has a successful *table d'hôte* menu — £29.50 for two courses, £35 for three.

Gavin Rankin, its owner, says: "I think some restaurants are charging too much — way too much."

He believes many of his rivals have just passed on costs, rather than working out if they can make any savings themselves. He decided to close the restaurant on Saturday rather than pay for another chef and waiter. "I'm afraid my colleagues do tend to [complain] when there's a crisis and then put up their prices. The root of this, in my view, was when VAT was relaxed during Covid." As an emergency measure the government slashed VAT from 20 per cent to 5 per cent for the hospitality industry — to help to resuscitate an industry on its knees. "Restaurateurs got very used to lower VAT, but when it was reinstated back to 20 per cent a lot of them thought: 'Hang on, that's our lawful profit.' It wasn't."

The rush to eat out after Covid lockdowns proved that, for many, there is no finer treat than a great meal cooked by someone else. But, as Rankin says, "restaurants need to be very careful, because there will come a breaking point when people think about where they will go for dinner".

Or worse, whether they will go out for dinner at all.

Don't sneer at the suburbs — it's what my generation can afford

Alice Jones

The first night that my husband and I had dinner in our new home, we realised we could hear the cutlery clinking on our plates. Not because we were silently fuming with each other (it was only the week after our wedding, after all — there was still time for all that) but because there was no other noise at all. This was unusual: in 2017 we moved from Brixton Road — frequently named London's most polluted road, where sirens whooped from morning to night and our nearest neighbour was a music venue with a sound system that made our windows shake — to a cul-de-sac in Gidea Park, a garden suburb near Romford, where our house backed onto a golf course and the only disturbances were the occasional golf ball landing in the flowerbeds and the lap and splash of our neighbours' swimming pool.

It was still London and a stop on the Elizabeth Line — these distinctions become important when you move "out", as people who have enough money to still live "in" like to say — but it was definitely a very quiet kind of London. Too quiet? A report from American, Danish and Swedish universities has stated that those living in the suburbs are at a 10-15 per cent higher risk of depression than those in inner-city areas because they have fewer people to socialise with, fewer chances of building a sense of community, and spend more time driving to attractions than in local restaurants, shops and cafés. In other words, I think, it's not as much fun living in zone 6 as it is in zone 2.





Alice Jones

I could have told you that without being an academic at Yale University, but here's another revelation: it's probably not as much fun being 40 as it is being 25 either. And for a lot of people the move from the inner city usually comes at a time of life when socialising takes a back seat to soft play and school friends — whether you have children of your own or not — and gardening insidiously becomes the new going out.

Like many people, I moved "out" for the usual reasons: I wanted to buy a house big enough to raise a family in and to be near family for help with ruinous childcare costs. So, money, basically. I feel lucky to own a house at all, so when I read headlines dissing the suburbs I do think, have you walked past a Foxtons window lately? It's not the Seventies any more, but you'd never know it from the inevitable *Abigail's Party* (set in a "theoretical Romford") tone of the snobbery around the places where 80 per cent of people in England live.

Depressing, though? Deliveroo remains a bit of a downer, I suppose. Once my credit card sent me an email suggesting where I could earn points on "dining out in my area" and the suggestions were McDonald's, KFC and Nando's. But since then new cafés and restaurants have opened (and, oh, the excitement when that happens), we have space and a lovely garden, family nearby, and now my ears have adjusted to the quiet I can sometimes hear woodpeckers clacking in the trees.

Is it really easier to build a sense of community in the city than it is in the suburbs? In my experience nobody talks to their neighbours anywhere if they don't have to, but for the first time in my adult life, I know their names. My daughter is obsessed with their new puppy, Charlie (see, I even know the dog's name). As for all the driving around, yes, we do that a lot, but parenting is at least one third taxi driving, we're close to the countryside, and it's mainly to visit our friends who live scattered around the country: those who live in the city are in the minority now.

The fact is, everybody my age that I know, apart from the ones earning six-figure bonuses, has compromised in some way on where they live. If they're fortunate enough to own a property they either have tiny kitchens but fabulous restaurants down the road, not enough bedrooms but excellent school options nearby, a big garden but a terrible local pub, or they're near family but far from friends (or vice versa). And if we're really honest, we all secretly think we've made the better choice while simultaneously yearning after the range of sourdough in their local deli, or their lovely lawn, and wondering where it all went wrong. That's just being British, isn't it?

fashion

Have you joined the khaki crowd yet? You soon will

It started with jackets — now the shade is everywhere. I wear it at fashion week and on the school run, says Harriet Walker

At a festival over the bank holiday I began counting how many people had come in cargo pants and reached 30-odd within minutes. It wasn't just the men either: I was wearing a pair myself. So was the woman next to me. It seemed worthy of a hug at the time.

Army green, perhaps with a cargo pocket or two, often teamed with nothing more adventurous than a plain black or white T-shirt. If you want to sum up the much-vaunted post-pandemic "vibe shift" in one item, it is the rise of khaki pants and the fall of the floral dress.

Look around and the streets are a spring/summer offensive of can-do shades of pale olive and forest green on everything from multi-pocketed, safari-style jackets and boiler suits to camo chinos and combat trousers. Army surplus chic is not only already ubiquitous, it also happens to suit both new recruits and those well over conscription age.

Fashion editors like me used to refer to leopard print as a "new neutral" — glossy magazine-speak for "it goes with anything". These days, we are more likely to pronounce that khaki is the new black, which means pretty much the same thing: a failsafe, versatile choice that looks current and spans the gamut from grungy student to polished Goop woman depending on what you wear with it.



£59.99, mango.com

I've actually been in fashionable fatigues longer than Volodymyr Zelensky, although that isn't something I'd say to his face. I bought an army jacket from the French label Equipment in 2016 and have barely taken it off since — never mind the front line, mine has sat on the front row. First fashionable types and then everybody else deemed khaki-green shackets perfect for almost any occasion, teamed with either jeans or a floral dress at the weekend. It became practically a uniform at airports too, not on the tarmac but in the business lounge. Gwyneth has one, so do Gigi Hadid, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley and Kim Kardashian. I note Boris Johnson has a new khaki fleece — is it the product of yet another well-timed call to Kyiv?

I wear mine on the school run as well as at fashion week; I've even thrown it on over black-tie dresses. But I haven't been able to wear it for a while now because every time I go to put it on I realise I am wearing trousers of exactly the same colour.

Where once I wore casual knockabout jeans every weekend, I now find myself in some version of khaki instead. Slouchy and less rigid, one of my favourite pairs came from H&M last summer and have a cunning elasticated panel at the back, which means the tailoring looks sharp but still feels comfortable (their current cotton twill trousers in dark khaki green are similar, £24.99, hm.com).

I also love Peachy Den's Mimi cargo pants, which are made from recycled nylon and have an elasticated waistband and ankles with toggles (now £70, peachyden.co.uk). Because they are almost identical to a pair I had when I was 15, I have been calling them my Gen Z trousers after the age group discovering this look for the first time, but I now realise I have it wrong: they are Zelensky pants and there is no age limit on them at all. I've worn



Harriet wears trousers, £70, peachyden.co.uk





£89, albaray.co.uk. Right: model Bella Hadid

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them to work, at smart dinners and out dancing at a 40th and in a field.

There was a time when the type of person who wore khaki trousers probably also had a fully stocked doomsday basement at home or a lot of Metallica albums. The modern version has fewer pockets and wider legs, a concealed fly and less of a survivalist taper. Their incursion into mainstream wardrobe territory has been aided in no small part by the lockdown switch from townie denim to outdoorsy garb with all-terrain appeal and plenty of pockets.

That, and the fact that Zara's military-inspired SRPLS range, which launched in 2018, has brought the look to the masses without the need to visit one of those scary-looking shops. When I was in my twenties the most stylish millennial men were all dolled up in frogged and braided vintage army coats and skinny jeans, like the Libertines. By contrast, Gen Z — altogether less into guitars, booze and dandyism — look more ready for duty than on parade.

As for the head-to-toe look, one can have too much of a good thing. I learnt the hard way recently when filing through airport security in khaki boiler suit and jacket. The man on the x-ray machine joked loudly (and repeatedly) that I should have nipped through the crew gates instead. I now limit khaki either to top or bottom, and situations where it will look 100 per cent civilian. Heels help too.

Twitter: @harrywalker1





Call it the Zelensky look

Robert Crampton, above



£89, cos.com, top, and £69, arket.com. Top: Robert Crampton and Volodymyr Zelensky

Khaki in vogue is a godsend for me, a rare intersection of mainstream fashion with personal taste. I've loved my khaki winter and spring (Fjallraven smock, Craghopper hiking trousers) and now I'm delighted at the prospect of a glorious khaki summer: vest; T-shirt; cargo shorts… I might possibly treat myself to a new green shirt too.

I dress in a casual, comfortable yet conservative style, selecting from a limited palette of black, navy, grey, brown (and now khaki) and a limited range of fabrics — cotton, principally denim, wool and whatever it is fleeces are made of. Khaki lends itself to these favoured materials. You don't get much khaki gear in satin or silk. Khaki says fit for purpose, taking care of business, without saying macho.

Unless you're Vladimir Putin, of course. For years, with his absurd horse-riding, bear-wrestling, fly-fishing stunts, torso bare but bottom half invariably squeezed into fatigues, the Russian strongman gave khaki a bad name. And that name was toxic masculinity. Where once khaki said hero GI saving the world on D-Day, thanks to bad Vlad it now said try-hard bully.

And then, at the end of last winter, out of the snowbound war-torn East, along came khaki's saviour.

Volodymyr Zelensky has become not only the face and voice of Ukrainian resistance to Russian aggression but also a sex symbol and style icon. Right from the outset of the war, he adopted a look — olive green crewneck sweatshirt with a cute pocket on the sleeve, T-shirt, khaki combats — and he's stuck with it.

Whether in Kyiv, the frontline trenches or at a summit of world leaders, he's worn the same outfit for 15 months. The khaki-casual is all the more effective for being set against the sober suits and ties of his allies. Zelensky's gear says: "I'm not going to make a big thing of it guys, but hey, I'm under fire and you're not."

It helps enormously that the 45-year-old president is in decent shape and has right on his side. After all, the average Trump fan generally wears plenty of camo — and still looks like a trigger-happy loser. Zelensky, on the other hand, is fancied by half the planet. All my female colleagues are into him. Mind you, one of them once confessed to a crush on a particularly soulful Taliban guy on the telly, so maybe being on the side of the angels isn't an absolute prerequisite for admiration.

Thanks to Zelensky (with a nod too, perhaps, to the increased popularity of outdoor pursuits and the environmental agenda) the streets of London, Paris and Berlin have turned drab green where once there was mostly black. Young and old, women and men, there's khaki everywhere you turn. Tailored couture or baggy surplus, there hasn't been so much military chic parading around western Europe since 1945.

I love it. The last time I wore this much green was 40 years ago, about the time of the Falklands conflict. I'd go on CND marches dressed head to toe in battledress, never bothering about the incongruity. Some of my mates went even further, sporting bandoliers, paratrooper boots and weirdly stylish ex-Italian special forces ponchos.

I wouldn't wear the full rig these days. Dressing up as a soldier does not flatter a middle-aged man, just ask Captain Mainwaring. But, albeit, in an understated way, I do intend to surf the khaki tsunami. When it breaks, I shall fade into the fashion undergrowth again. Just as this splendid shade of green was designed to do.

The lowdown
Florence Pugh

And in Florence Pugh's next turn as everyone's favourite millennial…

I didn't realise we had favourites.

We do — only the very special ones. And 27-year-old Pugh is certainly one of those.

Sorry, she sounds a bit young to be a millennial.

She's on the cusp! Anyway. This is about her next act, not her age bracket.

Another blockbuster? Blimey, she's busy.

Not too busy to have a cooking show, apparently.

Why do I get the feeling she may be better suited to that than her contemporary Brooklyn Beckham is?

Because she seems eminently more sensible and didn't grow up on a diet of Nobu and private catering?

Ah, yes. That'll be it. Still, I'm surprised she has time. Wasn't she, in fact, recently on the cover of Time itself?

Yes, but she had plenty of it to spare when she debuted the concept. Pugh started showcasing her ways with a whisk on her social media



platforms during lockdown, in a series entitled *Cooking with Flo*. In that interview with Time she said a TV version was in the works in between her larger projects.

I'd watch. What's her speciality? She strikes me as a crumpets and pavlova kind of gal.

What, together?

No, obviously not. I just mean she seems like someone who appreciates the good stuff: simple things done well (and possibly made using an Aga).

You aren't far off. She told Time that she "wouldn't want [the show] to be polished or clean or fussy".

Fair enough. Although I hope her utensils and worktops are the first two of those things, at least.

Hannah Rogers



Swimsuit, £35, and shirt, £25, all marksandspencer.com

Yes, fashion editors are shopping at M&S again

Its clothing sales are up 11.5 per cent. Lesley Thomas picks her favourite buys



Blazer, £59, shorts, £25, vest, £8.50, and sunglasses, £39.50

I had breakfast with a former colleague last week. She looked stupendously office-stylish in exactly the kind of summer trouser suit I am after: linen and dark pink, with a sharp-shouldered, nipped-waist jacket and slim, cropped trousers. A brightly coloured pantsuit, yes, but closer to Studio 54 than Hillary Clinton 2016. This was exactly the look I wanted for the Chelsea Flower Show yet failed on. I would have put money on her saying it was from Me+Em (and therefore in the £500 world), but it was from M&S for about a quarter of that — and, sadly for me, not this season.

Most of us midlife British women, from all walks of style life, have had a long, on-off relationship with M&S. When we were kids our mums bought our pants and school clothes from Marks — indeed, I did the same for my daughters. When we were in our twenties M&S was somewhere we discovered didn't just sell clothes but sold fashion. There were a few years in the Nineties when M&S could be relied on to have an It coat of the high street — a wool camel or a Crombie style that was perfect for our work wardrobes. But this was Before Zara. I clearly remember finding a very decent approximation of Tom Ford's 1995 Gucci look — the saucy fitted blouse and the bootcut strides — in the Kings Road M&S. About 12 years ago there were so many treasures in the shoe department I had to stop myself from "popping in" to the City branch on my way to work. I found an M&S homage to the classic Isabel Marant "Dicker" ankle boot — except much more comfortable (hoorah for the Footglove technology) and for a tenth of the price.

But what has M&S done for us lately? I have to say that over the past decade, although I remain an M&S frequent flyer, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley's flirty but sturdy knickers and the peerless gluten-free biscuits have been the big draw. The beauty selection at the larger branches is not shouted about enough. If you want a Space NK-style edit of reliable beauty brands that do not cost the earth, M&S is the place to trust. As for fashion, the dominance of maxidresses at Marks — I already have too many to mention — has been a turn-off for me in recent times. But I see that things are very much looking up this season.

Here are my must-haves

Linen blazer, £59
This is no ordinary summer blazer. The sleeves are pre-ruched. Because who wants to wear their jacket sleeves all the way down these days? I love all the slouchy tailoring that's around now, and M&S gives us a thoroughly wearable way to do it. You could try the matching loose shorts with it for the full hybrid-worker look.

Jacket, £59
This oversized padded bomber jacket is No 1 on my M&S fashion hit list. Smart enough for work, casual enough for a dog walk. It's perfect with a crisp white T-shirt but can update almost any outfit, even toughing up those girlie maxidresses we all have. And it's navy, so chicer than the average.

Studded platforms, £55
These platform clog-style sandals would be top of my most-wanted list were it not for the fact that I already own them. In fact, I have two pairs. M&S did them last summer in black and in a tan shade, and I was too conflicted to choose. I felt safe in the knowledge that Marks is so committed to our comfort in shoes that I would wear them to death — and indeed I have. The soles are slightly cushioned, so they walked me to work and around fields at festivals, and came with me on holiday. I wore the tan ones slightly more — which is possibly why this is the shade that's always sold out. They have a gold pair this year, if you're in the market for a dancing shoe for summer.



From top: sandals, £45; platforms, £55; Philip Kingsley Elasticizer, £36

Autograph straight-leg leather trousers, £179
The joy of the British summer is that there is highly likely to be a moment for summer leathers. These ankle-grazers are perfect sexy-casual evening wear, great with a big, mannish shirt or a slouchy jacket.

Scallop swimsuit, £35
I've been looking at a £300 version of this swimsuit on Matches and I am sure it won't look as good as this will on a real person. Scalloping is everywhere in swimwear, but honestly I don't care too much for trends when it comes to swimsuits. I want the cossie to be flattering and useful for actual swimming, especially in municipal-pool volumes of chlorine. That said, I'm nowhere near sporty enough to merit the full Speedo look, what with my three lengths of incoherent breast stroke. This area is where M&S always shines — useful, modern swimwear you can feel safe in at an exceptional price.

Philip Kingsley Elasticizer hair mask, £36
Among the impeccable beauty selection at Marks is this hair treatment from the world's leading trichologist. Slap this on as a pre-shampoo mask once a week (in extremis, I sleep in mine), and you and your shiny, healthy locks can thank me later.

I've found the dream dress — it's £30

Anna Murphy

I rocked up in the office yesterday in a dress from Marks & Spencer. Because, yes, Marks & Sparks is finally sparking again, clothes-wise.

It has been a while. The arrival of Maddy Evans, now the director of womenswear, from Topshop in 2019 is bearing fruit, or rather bearing myriad covetable examples of the kind of mididress that we keep being told we aren't supposed to want to wear any more, yet which I for one do.

I am clearly not alone. Last week the company announced that clothing and home sales had risen by 11.5 per cent to £3.72 million, with sales of casual dresses, and its posher range, Autograph, up 40 per cent.

I still have my gripes. The website can be cumbersome. Partly that's because the offering is so huge. Yet why, for example, can you not search for the M&S Collection range when you can search for Autograph? But still. I woke yesterday morning with a new phenomenon I am calling *Succession*-lag. (I still had two episodes to watch and stayed up ridiculously late to watch them.) Which is why it was to M&S, the patron saint of real life, that I turned.

This M&S Collection number is as nightie-like as a frock can get, in a good way. Ironically, it's also a case of "if you snooze you lose", in that it's now available in only two sizes (reduced to £30 from £59, marksandspencer.com).

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Bomber jacket, £59

Denim jumpsuit, £89



Anna wears dress, £30, down from £59

My dress is also indicative, I think, of why the chain is on the up. First, and most obviously, there is the price. Most of us are feeling the pinch at the moment. To be tempted into buying something that probably isn't an essential the price tag can't be too painful. Thirty quid feels doable.

M&S is consistently undercutting its erstwhile competitor John Lewis in this regard, and clearly has the price point of Next — rated the most stylish brand on the high street by shoppers, according to YouGov — in its sights. (M&S was rated third most stylish, up from fifth two years ago, with Zara at No 2.)

However, that is not all that is going on. The clothes have to be covetable, not just affordable, and they have to be wearable. Not only is this dress in a great print (you can't even see the jacquard-style shiny snakeskin finish in the pictures), it nails the detail. Like the perfect hem length. (I remember the days when every skirt or dress from M&S seemed cut to unflatter.) Like the elastication below the bust, which provides shape while skimming my post-bank holiday blow-out stomach.

Best of all is the cutaway at the back that facilitates some on-trend flesh-flashing but doesn't reveal your bra strap. If wanting to tick off a trend without also revealing my underwear makes me part of "the modern mainstream", as the brand has labelled it, as opposed to the cutting-edge fashion virtuoso I like to think of myself as, well, so be it.

Besides, my favourite cutting-edge fashion virtuoso, the stylist Lucinda Chambers, recently raved to me about M&S jewellery. (I like Autograph's freshwater pearl multi-row necklace, £40.) So there.

Instagram: @annagmurphy







From top: freshwater pearl necklace, £40; dress, £69; dress, £38, down from £79

Sex and the City is 25 — so am I. Here's what it taught me

Susie Goldsbrough

CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES





Top: Susie Goldsbrough, left, with her flatmates. Above: the SATC cast

When I turned 25, two weeks ago, one of the few consolations was knowing that, soon, so would *Sex and the City*. The Nineties show about four cosmo-sluggin', man-eating, impossibly glamorous female friends in their thirties living in New York City made its debut on American television on June 6, 1998, 21 days after I was born. At least I'm wizening in good company.

Sex and the City is my spiritual leader. I began watching it at university, where the cocktail bars, bright West Village apartments and parade of naked men were an escape from my student bedroom and greasy shared kitchen. I glugged it down properly, start to finish, during the first lockdown, convinced that I'd lost my twenties for ever. Without friends or parties or the possibility of romance and sex, hanging out with the *SATC* women was a solace.

Perhaps it's strange to have grown so attached to a show written by and for my mum's generation (she's 59). Today, it's cool to carp at *Sex and the City*. Critics have pointed out how some aspects of the show have dated: it is, for instance, overwhelmingly white. I dribbled over the clothes — the slip dresses, the fur coats, the heels — but in the detached, slightly porny way I usually reserve for cookbooks and Caribbean holiday Instagram posts. After all, my generation clump around in Doc Martens, not stilettos. So why don't I put down my knitting and go and find a show that reflects the lives of young women today? Well, I'd love to. Just one little problem: it doesn't exist.

Not, at least, one like *Sex and the City*. First, there's the sex. The show delivers on the promise in the title: the coitus is unrelenting, very funny and oddly unsexy, which might surprise anyone who has never watched it. Every episode there's a new guy, a new bedroom scene and, usually, a new problem. It turns out there's nothing very titillating about, say, the question of why men are so incompetent at delivering female orgasms (something I worried was a problem specific to me until I watched this show). This makes it an invaluable agony aunt to those of us — by which I mean all of us — who grew up with totally inadequate sex ed. How do you deal with premature ejaculation? Is it weird to have a vibrator? (Of course not: "I'm a 34-year-old single woman living in New York. I drink coffee, have sex, buy pies and enjoy battery-operated devices," Miranda thunders.) Should you forgive a cheating boyfriend? (Samantha and I both learnt this one the hard way — no.) *SATC* has the answers and it's not afraid to share them.

Then there's the lifestyle. Take the episode in the first season when the girls descend on a suburban baby shower. "It's a cult," Miranda hisses. Dressed in leather jackets and aviators, their dazzling out-of-placeness is a promise: you do not have to do it like this. I don't know if I want children but the possibility that I might one day turns me queasy with fear. It is such a relief to see that on screen.

And finally there's the question of being single: the girls always describe themselves as single, even when they have boyfriends. To be unattached in Armani, cocktail in hand, is, in the show's parlance, "fabulous", but occasionally it bites you. Think of the time Carrie is plastered across the cover of New York Magazine, looking flea-bitten and hungover, with the headline "Single and Fabulous?" Or her 35th birthday, when no one shows up for her birthday dinner. We find her looking small and subdued in a late-night diner, telling her friends the truth. "I know I have you guys and, really, I hate myself a little for saying this, but it felt really sad. Not to have a man in my life who cares about me … No goddam soulmate."

Marriage and children are confining, but the alternative? It is frightening. And *Sex and the City* wasn't frightened of that.

"I'm 35; 35 is not 25," Carrie sighs.

"Thank God!" Miranda snaps (how I love her). I really hope she's right.

CHAZ OLDHAM/HORATIO'S GARDEN



My son was killed by a polar bear but we brought to life his dream garden

Horatio Chapple's mother, Olivia, tells Damian Whitworth about how his idea led to a Chelsea Flower Show award

Horatio Chapple was 17 when he came up with an idea to help those recovering from life-changing accidents. Why, he asked, while volunteering at his local spinal injuries centre in Salisbury, was the only place that patients could go outside a depressing car park? Why did the hospital not have an accessible garden for them to find some respite?

Twelve years later six such gardens have been constructed at spinal injuries centres and I am sitting in a seventh with his mother, Olivia, at the Chelsea Flower Show. Horatio is not with us because in 2011 the Eton schoolboy was killed by a polar bear during an expedition in the Arctic.

As we talk, a crowd presses close to inspect this star attraction at last week's show, which won a gold medal and was named best in show. "It feels as if he just left us with this gift and it's the gift of an idea," Olivia says.

Horatio, who wanted to be a doctor like both his parents, was a keen rugby player who loved being outdoors and camping on remote Scottish islands. "When someone spends all of their time engulfed in everything that the natural world can offer," she says, "they understand how difficult it would be to be in a situation without any of that.

"We were probably a bit dismissive to start with," Oliva says of his idea of a garden that would be accessible to those in wheelchairs and hospital beds. "We could see all the barriers to doing it. To build a garden in the middle of a live hospital site is really hard to do."

Horatio persevered, even grabbing the passing chairman of the NHS trust to bend his ear, and conducted a survey of patients and staff. Salisbury District Hospital agreed to make some land available and a rough design had been done for a garden when Horatio departed in the summer of 2011 for an expedition to Svalbard with the British Schools Exploring Society.

One morning a starving polar bear attacked his group's camp. Horatio was killed and four others were injured before the bear was shot dead. The tripwire around the camp was found to have missing parts, but the coroner did not find that the organisers had acted with neglect.

The period after hearing the news, during which the Chapples flew with their two younger sons to Norway, was "a blur" for Olivia. However, she does remember that she and her husband decided that first day that they would dedicate themselves to realising their son's garden dream.

Staff at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre suggested they call the project Horatio's Garden and support expanded quickly. "When this level of tragedy happens, as anyone knows who's been bereaved, but particularly when you've lost a child, people want to help," Olivia says. "There's no solution and so people try to find something that can just perhaps help to get you through and find purpose."

The first Horatio's Garden opened at the Salisbury spinal treatment centre in 2012 and the latest is being built in Belfast. The goal is to open a garden at all 11 spinal injuries centres in the UK, and the Chelsea garden is scheduled to be replanted at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield next year if fundraising can be completed.

In the first years after Horatio's death the project of planning new gardens helped the Chapples as their son's death was investigated, including at an inquest in 2014. "When you lose a child, as anyone will testify, it takes over your whole being, and you really can't think about anything else." Olivia says. "You feel like you're in a veil of grief. And then, just slowly, you start to get these little moments where you can see something else or feel something else. And for us those moments were about this. And then gradually you start to be able to engage in those distraction moments more. And it gives you a thread to hold on to. So it was a bit of a lifeline that Horatio threw us."

The project itself became a sanctuary and Olivia, who had given up being a GP after Horatio died — "because I knew I wouldn't have been particularly helpful to my patients" — dedicated herself to the charity as a full-time volunteer. "I found my purpose in it." The charity's patron is Princess Eugenie; Joanna Lumley, Alan Titchmarsh and The Times's Melanie Reid are among its ambassadors.



Horatio Chapple. Top: his mother, Olivia, in the Horatio's Garden in Salisbury District Hospital

David Chapple continues in his day job as a consultant spinal surgeon, but is also very involved and today is busy handing out leaflets and talking to visitors. The couple's two younger sons, Titus and Magnus, are 27 and 25. One of Horatio's friends offered to stand in when they were growing up, "to do what older brothers would do: take them to the pub and give them a kicking when being annoying", Olivia says. "It was obviously incredibly hard for them when they were younger but they found a way through Horatio's Garden and through the loyalty of Horatio's friends."

Just as the Chapples were stricken by a sudden event, so too are the individuals and families who suffer life-changing spinal injuries.

"It's like going through a bereavement," she says, "because you're grieving your future hopes and dreams and your lost life and you're trying to grow into a new life."

For them, gardening can feel apposite. "When you can't see a way forward, to see something grow and perhaps then being able to water it, and then nurture it and maybe give it to your friend or family, it's so symbolic and I guess that's why gardens have always been a part of life. Loss is such a huge thing and you have to find meaning in it."

About 2,500 people have spinal cord injuries every year in the UK, and those who spend time at a specialist centre will be there for an average of five months. Feedback shows that almost all users of the gardens feel being in nature aided their rehabilitation. "The evidence shows if you can adjust in the acute phase after the injury, and your family can adjust to this, then your incidence of serious depression and mental health problems and suicide are reduced."

The garden we're sitting in, designed by Charlotte Harris and Hugo Bugg, is a haven, with a native, deliberately untidy hedge along one side, a low-hanging river birch and beds planted with, among many others, *Euphorbia palustris*, irises, non-stinging nettles and *Aruncus "Horatio"*, a hybrid goat's beard. Drystone cairns made in Yorkshire are a metaphor for showing a path when the way is not clear. When a larger version of the garden is installed in Sheffield, the moveable planters will enable mini-gardens to be wheeled to the bedsides of those too sick to come outdoors. Plug sockets in the garden beds will enable patients on ventilators to escape the wards.

The garden, which was visited by the Queen, was designed to be best seen from a wheelchair or hospital bed and the path of bonded aggregate has been polished smooth enough to win admiration from wheelchair users today. A pod built from sequoia and cork has windows at bed height and is so cocooning you want to take a nap on the hospital bed lent by the Royal Hospital Chelsea. "Seventeen years of love, kindness and courage," reads an inscription on a water feature. "You have to distil a lifetime into a few words. It's hard. But we felt that really is what he was," Olivia says. "The essence of Horatio is here."

Sometimes when visiting the gardens they have devised, she sits quietly by herself. "Our gardens are in really busy, bustling hospital sites, often with brutal architecture around them. And suddenly you take a step into this enclave and it is always an emotional experience. There's something there, a spirituality, whether that is because of what Horatio has left us, because of all of the people involved pulling together to make this happen in so many ways, or whether it's just nature that does that."

She is convinced that if Horatio were alive today, "he would have been pushing boundaries. I know that he would have done something that made a difference."

I think he may have done that already, I say.

"Yes," she says, "he has."

horatiosgarden.org.uk

What the British writers of Succession are doing next

Don't despair! Jesse Armstrong and his fellow scribes have new shows in the works, says Ed Potton

CHRIS HASTON/NBC VIA GETTY IMAGES





From top: Jesse Armstrong with the Succession cast and crew at the Emmys last year; Georgia Pritchett; Lucy Prebble

Among the many delights, epic and tiny, in this week's final episode of *Succession* was the guest appearance of a jar of Branston pickle (other, perhaps bigger, spoilers lie ahead). The "wartime pickle", as Roman witheringly called it, was tucked away in the fridge of the Bahamas house belonging to the Roy siblings' mother, Caroline. It became one of the ingredients, along with frozen "knobbies" (me neither — apparently a posh British term for the ends of bread loaves) that went into the "meal fit for a king" concocted by Roman and Shiv for Kendall, their newly anointed (or so he thought) brother.

The Branston cameo was a fabulously British example of the fabulously British influence on the TV show of the moment. *Succession* may be set and shot in New York and produced by HBO, the brand leader in prestige American television, but it has British blood — and condiments — coursing through its veins. The show's dead king, Logan Roy, and his successor (as we call him now) Tom Wambsgans, were of course played by Brits, respectively the Dundonian Brian Cox and Great Yarmouth-born Matthew Macfadyen. One of *Succession*'s executive producers, Jane Tranter, is British, as is one of its key directors, Mark Mylod. Even more importantly, it was dreamt up by a British-dominated team of writers led by 52-year-old Jesse Armstrong, a Shropshire lad (Oswestry) who cut his teeth on *My Parents Are Aliens*, a children's sitcom for Yorkshire Television.

Armstrong went on to become one of the most influential people in TV, co-creating or co-writing *Peep Show*, *The Thick of It* and *Fresh Meat*. Among the British writers he recruited for *Succession* were Tony Roche and Georgia Pritchett, veterans of *The Thick of It* and *Veep*, and 42-year-old Lucy Prebble, who had already skewered corporate America in her play *Enron* and would go on to co-create the celebrity satire series *I Hate Suzie*. An abundance, then, of dark, surreal and irreverent brains. Other Brits in the writers' room included Jon Brown (*Peep Show*, *Veep*, *Fresh Meat*), Anna Jordan (*Killing Eve*), Francesca Gardiner (*Killing Eve*, *His Dark Materials*), Miriam Battye (*Dead Ringers*) and Jamie Carragher (not the footballer).

"Writers' room" — it's such a classic American term, bringing to mind the neurotic but inspired spitballing sessions that created *Saturday Night Live* and *Friends*. Except in this case the room was in Victoria in London, and before that in Brixton. The most recent one, near Victoria station, was recently described by Armstrong as "quite small … it was a mess, we had cards all over the wall — ideas for the show and ideas for spin-off products and band names … a lot of ratings of the lunch products available. I wouldn't recommend a visit unless you like the smell of old sushi."

"From the beginning I think Jesse took the view that the kids are quite international due to being incredibly wealthy, and they had lived in England for a while," Roche told The Guardian. "One of the things that is maybe unusual about the show is that it's got this Britishness in its tone. It's quite irreverent towards its subject, it doesn't respect its betters. *Veep* had that, *The Thick of It* had that, and it's been really nice to see American audiences get it.

"There's something quite British about that, like, 'Oh look at this amazing view … but look at the bins over there.'"

Ted Cohen, another writer on the show, has said that "as an American, I always want to create a happy ending and you're never allowed to do that on *Succession*". Armstrong has described his initial idea for the series as "*Dallas* meets *Festen*", the latter being the molasses-black Danish film about a family gathering that reveals horrible secrets. It's a telling phrase for him to use, evoking a cross between American power and gloss, and European angst and gallows humour.

The value of casting an outsider's eye on the power brokers of Manhattan is now obvious but, as Pritchett wrote in The Guardian, "There was doubt felt in some quarters as to whether this group of scruffy Brits could pull off a glossy, high-end New York drama. And in many ways we couldn't. After we handed in the scripts for the first few episodes of season one HBO hastily employed a super-rich consultant whose job was to explain what it was like to be a billionaire to a group of people who were thrilled that someone was paying for their Pret sandwich."

Their consultant told them, caustically, that rich people didn't wear coats, only being outside for seconds while transferring from limos, private jets and helicopters. Oh, and when exiting the last, they never ducked like the rest of us plebs. Pritchett's first draft for a Thanksgiving episode featured even more clangers. Marcia, Logan's wife at the time, would never announce that lunch was ready. She wouldn't even know where the kitchen was.

There's a ruthlessness in their pursuit of tragedy and comedy. Roche told The Guardian of a moment early in the first season when Brown said: "Tom and Greg are a brilliant double act." Armstrong's face "lit up". The British elements of the show are among the ripest for laceration. None of them emerges well: Logan, Caroline, her on-the-make husband, Peter, or indeed Branston pickle.

"The ego has to disappear," Prebble told The Times in 2020. "Everyone's work gets passed around — there is nothing better than getting one of your scripts back and finding the jokes [that] Tony Roche, say, who is the funniest man in the world, has managed to find in it." Prebble, meanwhile, lobbied for Gerri, the Waystar exec, to be a woman rather than a man, and wrote many of Gerri's awkward flirtation scenes with Roman. Prebble said she was also on hand to "put blood on the page. If it needs a bit of tragedy or something going bad in one of the characters' lives, they come to me. And I'm proud of that because each of us is useful in some way."

Armstrong's team of hilarious cynics are in high demand. Prebble is reportedly developing a screen version of *Enron*, while Battye is creating an Amazon series, *Lois & Varga,* and Pritchett is moving from *The Shrink Next Door* to an adaptation of Gail Honeyman's bestseller *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*.

Armstrong has been linked to a number of projects including a *Peep Show* movie and *Jonty*, a film starring Michael Cera as a coddled man who moves to New York to produce a terrible Broadway play.

Is that definitely it for *Succession*, though? Armstrong's casual mention of the writers' room coming up with "ideas for spin-off products" is tantalising. "Every character deserves a spin-off," Pritchett has said. "Who wouldn't want to watch a season of Colin? Or Stewy? Or Gerri and Roman? But I suspect that will not happen."

I suspect she's right. Armstrong was at his most British in knowing when to stop. Talking to The New Yorker, he compared the less-is-more philosophy of UK TV with the suck-it-dry ethos in America.

"We could go on for ages and turn the show into something rather different, and be a more rangy, freewheeling kind of fun show, where there would be good weeks and bad weeks," he said. "Or we could do something a bit more muscular and complete, and go out sort of strong." Well, Armstrong picked the latter, and "sort of strong" is a considerable understatement.

***Succession: The Complete Final Series* is available on Sky, Now and to buy on digital platforms**

times2

Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai difficult

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

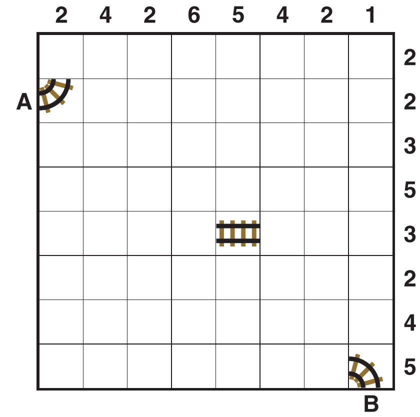
		8			9								6	5			3			8
3					2			1						3					5	1
1					5		9	8							5	2				
	5		3				2					3					2		1	
2		3		6		9	1					8		7				3		5
			2					4											7	2
9	4					6			5							7			6	
	6			8												3		1		
				2			7			8					4	1				3
									2		5		6							
							5						4							
							4		6		8									
9				3	1					1			8			6				
		5		9												7			8	
	1			2							4			6					7	9
7	5											5					9			
2		6				4		9					7	9		2		5		6
	9		7					2					1				3		9	
				7	8							8	9		2					4
3	7					2						2			3					7
6			2			7	3								5			1		

Sudoku easy

6	8						4	7
	1						6	
		5	8		9	6		
			4	2	6			
3	2			5			9	4
9			5		7			6
5	4	8	3		2	7	1	9

Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.



Killer gentle

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

14	5	9		3		23		10
		21			5			
15	14	4		18	22	11	7	
		7						13
		14				5	12	
7	16		4		11			13
	17					16	12	
14	5	7		15				
		16		8		12		

Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

```
□    □    □    □  > □
     ^              v
□    □    □    □    2
          v    v
□  > □    2    □    4

□    □    □    □  > □
          ^
□    □    □    □    □
```

Suko

	(20)	(18)
	(11)	(16)

Colour totals: 16, 14, 15

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

21	■	15	■	5	■	7	■	21	■	20 M	■	18
20	2	8	8	6	13	22	11	8	■	2	21	3
2	■	22	■	8	■	17	■	22	■	25	■	11
10	6	21	11	17	6	17	■	24	14	11	1	26
20	■	■	■	6	■	6	■	■	■	20	■	26
4	6	18	■	1	6	10	10	2	16	11	8	■
■	■	3	■	1	■	■	■	19	■	21	■	■
■	16	11	8	2	12	15	10	6	■	6	9	9
21	■	16	■	■	■	16	■	10	■	■	■	10
16	15	14	23	2	■	6	20	24 B	10	2	19	6
11	■	2	■	8	■	8	■	11	■	18	■	6
19	15	21	■	15	5	6	10	1	11	10	6	17
4 Y	■	3	■	8	■	17	■	4	■	4	■	4

A ~~B~~ C D E F G H I J K L ~~M~~ N O P Q R S T U V W X ~~Y~~ Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Y									
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						M				B		

Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

3		2	5		6
	3	1	4	5	
	1			2	
5		3	1		4

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Yesterday's solutions

SAMURAI

6	2	5	7	8	1	3	4	9				7	1	6	2	4	5	8	3	9
4	7	1	3	9	2	8	5	6				8	3	4	9	6	7	5	1	2
3	9	8	5	4	6	1	2	7				5	2	9	1	8	3	6	7	4
7	5	6	9	1	3	4	8	2				9	4	7	3	5	8	2	6	1
2	3	9	8	5	4	7	6	1				2	8	3	6	9	1	7	4	5
8	1	4	6	2	7	5	9	3				1	6	5	4	7	2	9	8	3
5	4	3	1	6	9	2	7	8	5	6	3	4	9	1	8	2	6	3	5	7
9	8	7	2	3	5	6	1	4	9	7	2	3	5	8	7	1	9	4	2	6
1	6	2	4	7	8	9	3	5	4	1	8	6	7	2	5	3	4	1	9	8
						1	9	2	7	3	4	8	6	5						
						5	8	3	1	9	6	7	2	4						
						4	6	7	8	2	5	9	1	3						
9	4	8	1	7	2	3	5	6	2	8	7	1	4	9	2	8	7	6	5	3
6	2	5	8	9	3	7	4	1	3	5	9	2	8	6	5	4	3	7	9	1
1	7	3	5	6	4	8	2	9	6	4	1	5	3	7	1	6	9	8	4	2
4	8	6	3	2	1	5	9	7				8	1	4	3	2	5	9	7	6
2	1	7	9	4	5	6	8	3				6	7	5	9	1	4	2	3	8
3	5	9	6	8	7	2	1	4				3	9	2	8	7	6	4	1	5
5	6	4	7	1	8	9	3	2				4	2	3	6	9	1	5	8	7
8	9	1	2	3	6	4	7	5				9	5	8	7	3	2	1	6	4
7	3	2	4	5	9	1	6	8				7	6	1	4	5	8	3	2	9

SUKO

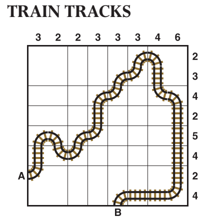
7	2	3
5	4	1
6	8	9

Circles: 18, 10, 23, 22

MINI SUDOKU

6	4	3	5	1	2
5	2	1	**4**	**6**	3
2	**5**	6	**3**	**4**	1
3	**1**	4	2	5	6
1	3	**5**	**6**	2	4
4	6	**2**	1	3	5

TRAIN TRACKS



FUTOSHIKI

```
5    2    4    3    1
v
3    1    5  > 2    4
v    ^
2    4    1    5    3

1    5    3  < 4    2
          v
4    3    2  > 1    5
```

SUDOKU

3	2	1	4	7	6	8	5	9
8	7	6	5	9	3	1	2	4
9	5	4	8	2	1	7	3	6
6	4	9	7	8	5	3	1	2
2	8	5	1	3	4	6	9	7
7	1	3	9	6	2	4	8	5
1	9	2	6	4	8	5	7	3
4	3	8	2	5	7	9	6	1
5	6	7	3	1	9	2	4	8

KILLER

9	5	4	7	6	3	2	1	8
8	6	1	2	9	5	7	3	4
3	2	7	8	1	4	5	9	6
1	4	8	3	2	9	6	7	5
2	7	9	1	5	6	8	4	3
5	3	6	4	8	7	9	2	1
4	8	3	5	7	2	1	6	9
7	9	5	6	4	1	3	8	2
6	1	2	9	3	8	4	5	7

CODEWORD

R	■	B	■	U	■	S	■	C	■	S	■	U
A	P	R	O	N	■	P	R	O	J	E	C	T
F	■	E	■	D	■	A	■	N	■	E	■	M
F	L	A	V	O	U	R	■	F	O	R	G	O
I	■	K	■	■	■	S	■	E	■	■	■	S
A	B	A	T	E	M	E	N	T	■	T	O	T
■	■	G	■	M	■	■	■	T	■	W	■	■
C	U	E	■	P	R	O	X	I	M	I	T	Y
H	■	■	■	O	■	L	■	■	■	L	■	O
R	A	Z	O	R	■	D	O	W	N	I	N	G
O	■	E	■	I	■	E	■	H	■	G	■	U
M	A	R	Q	U	I	S	■	A	B	H	O	R
E	■	O	■	M	■	T	■	T	■	T	■	T

Fifty years on, Watergate is played for laughs

James Jackson
TV review



White House Plumbers
Sky/Now
★★☆☆☆

In the past, films such as *All the President's Men* and *Nixon* covered the Watergate era with howling outrage at a grotesque conspiracy to block justice. With 50 years of distance, however, the scandal is played for laughs. Political corruption plus time equals comedy.

Last year we had *Gaslit*, a semi-satirical sideswipe at Watergate by way of a Julia Roberts star vehicle. Now HBO's *White House Plumbers* goes one further and paints it all as bungling farce. Sort of, because by the end, the spiralling insanity of the cover-up and toppling house of cards has become very serious. It's a bit all over the place.

So we start with incidental music like that from a 1970s cop show as the gang of burglars try to infiltrate the Democratic National Committee offices — they can't because they've brought the wrong key-breaking tools, the incompetent morons!

Yes, a comedy. Where the former FBI man Gordon Liddy is played by Justin Theroux as a malevolent Ron Burgundy. With a ferocious chevron moustache and a way of enunciating his words with great precision, he is a loose cannon with an oft-mentioned fondness for Hitler ("Nacht und Nebel," is the kind of Nazi-themed thing he drawls. "Night and Fog.").

His ex-CIA co-henchman Howard Hunt, meanwhile, is portrayed by Woody Harrelson as a growling tough guy with a tendency to call people "amigo" and "muchacho". Both are proudly self-styled commie-haters, thus fitting right in with all the right-wing blowhards in Nixon's White House after they're thrown together.

Despite a propensity for disguises that Inspector Clouseau would reject as too silly, they fail upwards. Until their Watergate antics, after which they fail downwards, spectacularly.

With such a colourful story perhaps Harrelson and Theroux were always going to dial up their performances to 11. Especially when the writers (the *Veep* alumni Alex Gregory and Peter Huyck) give them scenes such as one where Liddy invites the Hunts round to dinner and gleefully plays them an album of Hitler speeches.

HBO



Justin Theroux as Gordon Liddy, Woody Harrelson as Howard Hunt

The Hunts' domestic life becomes a subplot to provide emotional ballast, with Lena Headey giving Dorothy Hunt a dignity that can feel from a different show. But it's odd that when a family tragedy occurs there is nothing remotely moving about it. The event (a plane crash) seems more designed to get conspiracy theorists googling.

Any show with the high-end élan we expect from HBO — and any with supporting turns from Kathleen Turner, Domhnall Gleeson and Toby Huss (the best thing about the recent *Fatal Attraction*) — is going to have something going for it. Somewhere in here there's an irony about how the worst actions of the Nixon firm ended up rescuing democracy from political malignancy. But how exactly are we supposed to feel as the clownishness turns to paranoia, the foolish Hunt turns to brooding self-reflection, and Theroux's over-the-top Liddy starts to feel just psychotically horrible?

Let's give the Nazi fanatic his due, at least, because near the end he delivers the most perspicacious line of all: "If all I've done is to undermine the average American's faith in government, that will pay dividends for the Republican Party far into the future." Which leaves you something to think about, if you make it that far.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



History's Secret Heroes
Radio 4, 11.30am

Narrated by Helena Bonham Carter and written by the historian Alex von Tunzelmann, this new series tells the stories of some of the most laudable yet relatively unsung heroes from the Second World War. The action begins with the tale of Virginia Hall, *above*, the US spy who defied disability (she had a prosthetic leg nicknamed "Cuthbert"). Hall worked for the British Special Operations Executive and created an espionage and resistance network in France. The episode focuses on her work co-ordinating a 1942 prison break of 12 agents from Mauzac prison near Bergerac.

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Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Patrick Maguire. Politics without the boring bits **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. A fresh look at the issues shaping our world **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Jane and Fi's trademark entertaining style plus live discussion of the day's news **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. A full round-up of today's developments **7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Informed debate **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation **10.00** Carole Walker. The main stories of the day **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. Pop superstar Jess Glynne selects her Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe. Rufus Wainwright talks about his new album *Folkocracy*, upon which he sings his favourite folk and roots songs, including *Down in the Willows Garden* and *Arthur McBride* **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Seven of Rhythm Nation's biggest hits, uplifting tunes and essential throwbacks **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg. Music and chat **3.00am** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Presented by Petroc Trelawny
9.00 Essential Classics
Tom McKinney presents music and features
12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)
Kate Molleson looks at how Scarlatti took legal action to assert his independence and made a decisive change of direction, abandoning Italy for a new start in Portugal. Scarlatti (Sonata in G, K 284; Messa breve *"La Stella": Kyrie*; *La Dirindina* — extract from Scene 1; Sonata in D, K 443; Sonata in F, K 17; *Stabat Mater*, Nos. 5-10; and *Contesa della stagione: VIII. "Giorno felice", "Sia dolce e caro e grato"*)
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
Soraya Mafi and Ian Tindale perform. Recorded at St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye, during the Hay Festival. Schumann (*Lied der Suleika*, Op 25 No 9 — *Myrten*); Hensel (*Suleika II*, H-U 210; and *Suleika* III, H-U 306); Schubert (*Suleika* I, D720; *Suleika II*, D717; and *Geheimes*, D719); Wolf (*Als ich auf dem Euphrat schiffte*; and *Hochbeglückt in deiner liebe Beamish: The Nightingale*); Kashani (*The Heart Snatcher*); Saint-Saëns (*Tournoiement*, Op 26 No 6 — *Mélodies persanes*); Fauré (*Les roses d'Ispahan*, Op 39 No 4); Bizet (*Adieux de l'hôtesse arabe*); and Holmès (*Chanson persane*)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
The Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra perform with soloist Yulianna Avdeeva. Sullivan (Suite from *"The Tempest"* Op 1: *Dance of Nymphs and Reapers*); Schmidt (Symphony No 3 in A, 3rd mvt); Gesualdo (*T'amo mia vita*); Luzzaschi (*Cor mio benché lontana. d'India: Deh, poi ch'era nei fati*); Beach (*Romance*, Op 23); Beethoven (Septet, Op 20, in E flat, 1st movement; *Adagio — Allegro con brio*); Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor, Op 16); Nenna (*Mercè grid*); Tagliavia (*Io mi sento morir*); and Gesualdo arr Maletto (*Pietà Signor, pietade*)
4.00 Choral Evensong
From the Chapel of Keble College, Oxford, on the Feast of the Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. Recorded on April 27. Introit: A Hymn to the Virgin (Britten). Responses: Radcliffe. Psalms 122, 127, 128. First Lesson: Zechariah 2 vv10-13. Office hymn: Now in Holy Celebration (Urbs Beata). Canticles: Stanford in A. Second Lesson: Luke 1 vv.39-54. Anthem: Totus Tuus (Górecki). Voluntary: Toccata, Fugue et Hymne sur Ave Maris Stella (Toccata) (Peeters). Christopher Bucknall (director of music), Daniel Greenway (senior organ scholar), Edward Gaut (junior organ scholar)
5.00 In Tune
7.00 Classical Mixtape
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
The Philharmonia perform. Recorded at the Royal Festival Hall, London's Southbank Centre, on May 21. Prokofiev (*Lieutenant Kijé* Suite; and Violin Concerto No 1 in D, Op 19); and Stravinsky (*Petrushka*)
10.00 Free Thinking
Rana Mitter chairs a discussion on Europe
10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs
Paul Morley tries to confine himself to one lyric adventure
11.00 Night Tracks
12.30am Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day
6.00 Today
With Martha Kearney and Nick Robinson
9.00 More or Less
Numbers and statistics used in everyday life. Presented by Tim Harford (2/6)
9.30 Please Protect Abraham
How suitable the current system is for protecting witnesses. Last in the series (r)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History
By Jonathan Kennedy (3/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Nuala McGovern presents the magazine
11.00 What are the Railways For?
Daniel Brittain asks what Britain's railways are for today in society (r)
11.30 History's Secret Heroes
Extraordinary stories from the Second World War. ***See Radio Choice***
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth
The true cost of convenience and the burden it lays on the shoulders of other people (3/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: Undercover Mumbai
By Ayeesha Menon. The body of a young woman, Nyla Ansari, is found in a bath in what initially appears to be a suicide (2/3)
3.00 Money Box Live
Financial questions
3.30 All in the Mind
Claudia Hammond explores the limits and potential of the human mind (6/10) (r)
4.00 Thinking Allowed
Thought-provoking issues (9/10)
4.30 The Media Show
With Katie Razzall
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Room 101 with Paul Merton
With Desiree Burch (2/6)
7.00 The Archers
Freddie's frustrations grow
7.15 Front Row
8.00 The Moral Maze
Ethical issues (2/10)
9.00 Bad Blood: The Story of Eugenics
The story of eugenics (1/6) (r)
9.30 The Media Show
With Katie Razzall (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors
By Tan Twan Eng (3/10)
11.00 Twayna Mayne: Black Woman
The comedian Twayna Mayne searches for role models to help her create her own black British female identity (2/4) (r)
11.15 The John Moloney Show
The stand-up goes head to head with consumer law (2/4) (r)
11.30 The Spark
Decision strategist Annie Duke talks about knowing when to quit (3/4) (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am Hancock's Half Hour **8.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **9.00** Nature Table **9.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends **10.00** With a Little Help from My Friends **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **12.00** One Two Three Four — The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** A Trespasser's Guide to the Classics **1.00** Hancock's Half Hour **1.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **2.00** Nature Table **2.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends **3.00** With a Little Help from My Friends **4.00** The Events at Black Tor **4.30** A Charles Paris Mystery: A Reconstructed Corpse **5.00** One Two Three Four — The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** A Trespasser's Guide to the Classics **6.00** Hancock's Half Hour **6.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **7.00** Nature Table. With guests Lucy Cooke, Dr Karim Vahed and Felicity Ward **7.30** Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends. Wendy busies herself preparing for the new arrivals **8.00** Beatles at the BBC. The Fab Four's appearances on BBC radio shows in 1963 and 1964 **9.00** Short Cuts. Josie Long presents tales of nothingness **9.30** Rebus: Death Is Not the End. By Ian Rankin. Last in the series **10.00** Comedy Club: Room 101 with Paul Merton. Claudia Winkleman tries to banish picnics, whispering and alliteration **10.30** Pick-Ups. Mike worries his number is up. Last in the series **11.00** The Sofa of Time. Comedy **11.30** The Mel and Sue Thing

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport. Commentary on day four of the French Open from Roland Garros **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am Emily Pilbeam **7.30** Gemma Cairney **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** Loud and Proud with Rufus Wainwright & Justin Vivian Bond **9.00** Big Joanie **12.00** Freak Zone Playlist **1.00am** Definitively Dusty **2.00** Queer as Punk **3.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever **4.00** 6 Music's Jukebox

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Joe Clay

The Gallows Pole
BBC2, 9pm

Top pick

Shane Meadows returns to the small screen for the first time since his acclaimed 2019 series *The Virtues* with this earthy three-part period drama. It is shot through with elements of folk horror like the Benjamin Myers novel it is based on, which won the Walter Scott prize for historical fiction in 2018. In the early 1760s the thriving Calder Valley in West Yorkshire produced fine cottage-spun textiles. But its fortunes began to decline as the weavers' cottages were rendered obsolete by huge factories, laying waste to the feudal system that had existed for centuries. Enter the enigmatic "King" David Hartley (Michael Socha), staggering wounded across an English landscape that would soon be spoilt, accompanied by his nightmarish visions of the "Stag Men". He is returning to the Calder Valley seven years after he left following the death of his father. The small population, including his family, are starving and struggling to survive. After recovering from his stab wound, Hartley organises the weavers and land-workers into a gang who became known as the "Cragg Vale Coiners", running one of the biggest counterfeit operations in British history and capsizing the economy. As well as his regular collaborators Socha and Thomas Turgoose (*This Is England*), Meadows has assembled a cast of first-time actors to play minor roles. The cast, combined with peppery dialogue and scenes that feel improvised, add a raw naturalism to this distinctive drama.

George Michael: A Different Story
Paramount+

In this 2004 documentary (first aired on BBCI) George Michael talked candidly about his life and career, including coming to terms with his sexuality, the death of his mother and that potentially career-ending public lavatory incident. It also delivered the first interview with Andrew Ridgeley, his former Wham! bandmate, since the group split, with the duo appearing on screen together. Michael also prematurely announces the end of his pop career. "I just thought it was very important to explain myself before I disappear," he says.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live. Magazine show **10.00** Rip Off Britain. The firms that could be doing a lot more to make life easier **10.45** Fraud Squad. The local pharmacist who "doctored" prescriptions to earn himself £76,000 **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and West Yorkshire (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. From Newark, Nottinghamshire (r) (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Rob finally addresses the elephant in the room (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore visits Keynsham recycling centre in search of items to be rescued **3.00** Escape to the Country. Leafy Buckinghamshire is Sonali Shah's destination as she helps a London couple search for their dream countryside home (r) (AD) **3.45** Garden Rescue. The team help a couple make an eco-friendly garden for themselves and their daughters to enjoy using recycled materials and a budget of £4,500 **4.30** Clean It, Fix It. The team are in London to help a single mum reclaim her bedroom and get her daughters back in their own beds **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.00am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) (AD) **6.30** Garden Rescue (r) **7.15** Clean It, Fix It (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Factory (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible. Quiz hosted by Rick Edwards (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef explores the west coast of Scotland (r) (AD) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Jules Hudson goes "champing" — camping in a church (r) (AD) **3.15** What Britain Buys and Sells in a Day. Ed Balls, Ade Adepitan and Cherry Healey investigate the nation's imports and exports (r) (AD) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop. Billy Bragg pays the Arderns a visit as they get to grips with 1960s life (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! A collection of interesting finds from around the country, visiting the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke Ragley Hall in Warwickshire, and the RAF museum in Hendon, London (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Edith Bowman, Fern Brady, Will Kirk and Martin Lewis take part (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo is in the North Yorkshire seaside resort of Scarborough to explore one of the greatest royal fortresses in England (AD)

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and celebrity gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of celebrity chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David and his dealers visit Telford and set up shop in the International Centre. Mark Stevens and Alison Chapman strike gold, and a furry ferret comes along to sweeten a deal (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. A team of bingo colleagues get their chance to win a bumper cash prize by answering Top 10 list questions. Quiz show hosted by Sally Lindsay (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four more contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Fixing up a pinball machine from a damp shed (r) (AD) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me. Three couples compete to host the best dinner party in Plymouth (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch. Weekday magazine show hosted by Steph McGovern **2.10pm** Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Ben Hillman helps a couple find the perfect holiday home on Tenerife (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. A plumber and a joiner get together to fix a property in West Yorkshire (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. A couple make plans to split their Somerset vicarage in two so they can rent out one half and live in the other (AD) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer becomes a member of the paparazzi, and proves so successful at snapping embarrassing photographs that his celebrity victims seek revenge (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Cindy takes drastic action when she believes her late husband's phone box is being removed from the village, and her behaviour worries Zara and Grace (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins and reading out viewers' correspondence **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with the presenter, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Tane finds Mackenzie in a bad way, sitting amidst the shreds of Gabe's torn up letter. Eden orders Remi to apologise to Cash (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Stolen by Their Father (PG, TVM, 2022)** A woman fights for her daughters when her ex kidnaps them. Thriller starring Sarah Drew and Patrice Goodman **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. The presenter and expert Paul Hayes go antique hunting against the clock as they continue their search for buried treasure to sell for profit at auction **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The Seven Hills Students try their luck against the quiz experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Pedigree Chums take part in the quiz show (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



How Russia's Wagner group took over the Central

Russia's Wagner group – already dominant in the conflict in Ukraine – has become the de facto boss in the diamond-rich Central African Republic, where they influence politics, culture and the economy. But how did this happen?

Evening

BBC1
7.00 **The One Show** Magazine hosted by Roman Kemp and Angellica Bell

7.30 **EastEnders** Jay struggles to say goodbye to his wife and Linda hosts a lock in at The Vic to give some moral support and a place to reflect (AD)

8.00 **MasterChef** The semi-finalists meet celebrated chef Clare Smyth who challenges them to cook and serve one of her signature dishes to a select group of professional cooks including Sat Bains, Tom Kitchin, Jonny Lake and Nieves Barragán Mohacho (AD)

9.00 **The Great British Sewing Bee** The sewers are challenged to make garments for a travel wardrobe, including a rucksack, some made-to-measure swimwear and eventually rainwear made out of windbreakers. *See Viewing Guide* (2/10) (AD)

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Regional News and Weather**

10.40 **I Kissed a Boy** Host Dannii Minogue makes a show-stopping entrance as the boys gather for a Kiss Off, and a series of cold shoulders leave a number of boys left unkissed — leading to a dramatic dinner party (5/8) (r) (AD)

11.25 **I Kissed a Boy** The dinner party concludes with heated words and bruised relationships, but the love game gets back on track when Dannii introduces two new boys, just in time for the Kiss Off (6/8) (r) (AD)

Late **12.15am Question of Sport** Brentford defender Ethan Pinnock, Olympic hockey champion Hollie Pearne-Webb, world indoor 60m title-winner Richard Kilty and European gold medal-winning diver Tonia Couch join team captains Ugo Monye and Sam Quek and host Paddy McGuinness on the light-hearted quiz show (r) **12.50-6.00** BBC News

BBC2
7.00 **Digging for Britain: The Greatest Discoveries** The key archaeological sites of Iron Age Britain (2/4) (r) (AD)

7.30 **Villages by the Sea** Archaeologist and presenter Ben Robinson uncovers evidence of the German occupation of the Jersey village of Gorey (r)

8.00 **Springwatch** Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan have overnight news of the key characters, Gillian Burke searches Snowdonia for the UK's only venomous snake, the adder, and Iolo Williams goes in search of the heathland's resplendent inverts (3/12)

9.00 **The Gallows Pole** New series. Shane Meadows' drama inspired by the rise of David Hartley and the Cragg Vale Coiners, a gang of counterfeiters in 18th-century Yorkshire. Starring Michael Socha and Thomas Turgoose. *See Viewing Guide* (1/3) (AD)

10.05 **Man Like Mobeen** It is the night of Aks's prom, but Mobeen must decide whether to let her go (1/4) (r) (AD)

10.30 **Newsnight**

11.15 **Unspun World with John Simpson** The BBC's world affairs editor reflects on the week's major news stories

11.45 **The Death of Stalin (15, 2017)** Political satire starring Andrea Riseborough. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

Late **1.25am Sign Zone: Rip Off Britain** Tenants under Britain's biggest housing association reveal all (r) (SL) **2.10** Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars. The final three take on a food-related task at Glasgow's Ibrox Stadium (r) (AD, SL) **3.10-3.40** MasterChef. The cooks serve up a dish the judges can eat with their hands (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
7.00 **Emmerdale** Dan worries about his finances and Gabby stresses about the wedding. Mack and Chloe are bolstered by their growing friendship (AD)

7.30 **Coronation Street** As Justin's trial commences, Ryan gets cold feet about going to court. Meanwhile, Roy informs Nina that he needs surgery (AD)

8.00 **Britain's Got Talent** Ant and Dec host the third live semi-final of the contest, welcoming back acts that impressed judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon during the auditions episodes

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**

10.30 **Regional News**

10.45 **Our House** Thriller starring Tuppence Middleton and Martin Compston. Fi Lawson arrives home to find strangers moving into her house, but she insists that the property is not for sale. With events spiralling bout of control, her panic rises as she is unable to contact her estranged husband Bram or locate her missing children (1/4) (r) (AD)

11.40 **British Touring Car Championship Highlights** The third meeting of the season, staged at Snetterton (r)

Late **12.55am Teleshopping 3.00** A.I: What You Need to Know — Tonight. Rachel Younger explores the promise and the perils of artificial intelligence (r) (SL) **3.25** Ithaka: The Fight to Free Assange. Documentary about the campaign to prevent Julian Assange's extradition to America (r) (SL) **5.20-6.00** Unwind with ITV

Channel 4
7.00 **Channel 4 News**

8.00 **Location, Location, Location** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer reunite with house-hunters they helped back in 2014 and 2016 to see where life has taken them since they found their perfect properties

9.00 **A Paedophile in My Family: Surviving Dad** Documentary following businesswoman Emily, who carries the weight of a childhood of sexual abuse by her father, as she considers confronting the person who dominated her childhood on his release from prison. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

10.00 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on shows including *SAS: Who Dares Wins, Bridgerton, Freeze the Fear with Wim Hof, The 1% Club, Get Organized with the Home Edit* and *Made in Chelsea* (r) (AD)

11.05 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching with cameras capturing their instant reactions (r) (AD, SL)

Late **12.05am Taskmaster** (r) (AD, SL) **1.05** The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan (r) **2.00 FILM: Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse (15, 2015) 3.35** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **4.30** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds (r) **5.00** Jamie's One-Pan Wonders (r) **5.10-6.05** Britain's Scenic Railways (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 5
7.00 **Costco: Is It Really Worth It?** Documentary looking at the workings of the membership-only retailer, examining if its own-brand products are really premium ones in disguise, and putting them to the test (r)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Ambulance: Code Red** A car wash employee is stabbed during an argument, a builder falls 12 feet onto concrete from the roof of a farm building, and a six-year-old is hit by a car while leaving school (r)

9.00 **999: Critical Condition** A young man is rushed in with a suspected pulmonary embolism, staff rush to attend a 66-year-old patient who has been found at home in cardiac arrest, and a man who has been living with unbearable pain in his legs for several years is finally having surgery

10.00 **Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts** Dr Sue Mason and Sister Benita Wainwright prepare resus for a 56-year-old patient who has been found unconscious at home, while doctor George Kay treats an 85-year-old woman who is struggling for breath and has a racing heart (r)

11.05 **A&E After Dark** Dr Chris comes across a motorcycle crashed into some railings on the way home from work, and returns to the hospital with the rider, who is revealed to have internal bleeding (5/10) (r)

Late **12.05am 999: Criminals Caught on Camera** Police officers face a violent man (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Tony Robinson's History of Britain (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) (AD) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Thomas (r) (SL)

The Great British Sewing Bee
BBC1, 9pm

An opening skit involving Sara Pascoe dressed as a flight attendant is the cue that this is travel week, with the 11 remaining amateur needleworkers ready for another three tricky challenges set by the judges Esme Young and Patrick Grant. The pattern challenge is a first for *Sewing Bee*, with the contestants tasked with making a rucksack with two adjustable straps and a front pocket with a zip. And this being Blighty, the transformation task is to make "emergency rainwear" out of a windbreak, while the final "made to measure" challenge is to fashion a swimsuit.

A Paedophile in My Family: Surviving Dad
Channel 4, 9pm

"To the outside world we were no different to any other family," says Emily at the start of this distressing documentary. But for the first 18 years of her life she was sexually abused by her dad. Against the odds, as an adult Emily has created a loving home for her son and has a fruitful career. Wanting to help other survivors of abuse, she has made this film. The process is harrowing, as she talks to family, friends, teachers and her mum to try to understand how her abuse remained hidden for so long. Is opening these old wounds worth it?

The Long Roads
BBC4, 10pm

The latest offering from the Screen Two archive is John McGrath's poignant 1993 drama. Kitty McVurrich (Edith MacArthur) and her husband, Peter (Robert Urquhart), leave their farm on the Isle of Skye for a final journey around Britain to visit their five children after Kitty is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Their offspring are socially and geographically miles apart, but the road trip is successful in that it rekindles the couple's love for one another. Critics at the time felt that it was a rather obvious way to highlight differences in British society, but few could resist the love story at its core.

Film The Death of Stalin
BBC2, 11.45pm

The satirist Armando Iannucci turns the murky historical period surrounding the death of Stalin in 1953 into a raucous, savagely smart comedy. Stars include Steve Buscemi, Michael Palin and a brilliantly sinister Simon Russell Beale. (15, 2017)

Sky Max

6.00am Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** Supergirl (r) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** Supergirl (r) **5.00** The Flash (r)
6.00 Stargate SG-1. Colonel Mitchell is accused of murder — but is not sure he is innocent (r)
7.00 Stargate SG-1. The SG1 team experiences the merging of alternative realities (r)
8.00 S.W.A.T. A prison guard's family is taken hostage, and Tan faces a difficult decision (r)
9.00 Strike Back: Legacy. The daughter of a British ambassador is kidnapped (r) (AD)
10.00 Poker Face. A casino cocktail waitress with an uncanny knack for identifying lies investigates the death of her friend (1/10) (r)
11.20 Poker Face. A wounded Charlie is forced to make a pitstop in New Mexico (2/10) (r)
12.35am Last King of the Cross. Australian crime drama (r) **1.45** Road Wars (r) **2.15** The Force: North East (r) **3.10** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.05** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.55** Big Love (r) **10.05** True Blood (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **3.30** Big Love (r) **5.45** True Blood. An outcast Alcide visits his father (r)
6.50 True Blood. A spate of vampire-on-human attacks causes trouble for the Authority (r)
7.55 Game of Thrones. Jaime finally visits Tyrion in jail after some persuasion from Bronn, and also has a mission for Brienne (r) (AD)
9.00 Perry Mason. Perry tries to negotiate with the DA as the Gallardos' trial nears (5/8) (r)
10.05 White House Plumbers. Factual drama about the Watergate scandal starring Woody Harrelson, Justin Theroux and Lena Headey (r)
11.10 Succession. The final episode of the drama. Ahead of the GoJo board vote, Kendall and Shiv shore up their opposing interests and try to get a fix on Roman. Last in the series (r)
12.50am Sharp Objects. Drama (r) (AD) **1.55** Der Pass (r) **3.05** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **4.10** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The Movies (r) **7.00** Discovering: Vincent Price (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Seventies (r) (AD) **10.00** Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow (r) (AD) **11.00** The Essex Murders (r) (AD) **12.00** Very Ralph (r) **2.10pm FILM: The Princess (12, 2022)** The life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Vincent Price (r)
6.00 The Seventies. The effect of the US's withdrawal from the Vietnam War (r) (AD)
7.00 Ghislaine Maxwell: Epstein's Shadow. The life of the former socialite (1/3) (r) (AD)
8.00 The Essex Murders. Documentary about the killing of three notorious criminals (r) (AD)
9.00 David Fuller: Monster in the Morgue. Documentary about the murderer (1/2) (r)
10.00 FILM: Love to Love You, Donna Summer (12, TVM, 2023) A look at the life and career of the iconic disco singer
12.30am The United Way (r) (AD) **2.20** United Skates (r) **4.05** The Directors. Alan J Pakula's career (r) **5.00** Discovering: Vincent Price (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Darbar: Music of India **7.00** Hollywood in Vienna: Thrilling Moments & Lalo Schifrin **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Olivia de Havilland (AD) **12.00** Vermeer from the National Gallery, London **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** The Big Design Challenge (AD) **3.00** The Directors **4.00** Discovering: William Holden (AD) **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected. Double bill of the series (AD)
6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents. Double bill
7.00 Discovering: Angela Bassett. A look at the life and career of the American actress
8.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2018. The contestants are challenged to paint sitters Ross Kemp, Freddie Fox and Vicky McClure
9.00 Discovering: Rita Hayworth (AD)
10.00 Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate
12.00 Spielberg (AD) **2.30am** David Harewood's F Word **3.30** Marina Abramovic Takes Over TV. Performance art **4.30** Lenny Henry's Got the Blues (AD) **5.30** Video Killed the Radio Star

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Live State of Origin Rugby League: Queensland Maroons v New South Wales Blues (Kick-off **11.05**). Coverage of game one of the three-match series between the sides, which takes place at Adelaide Oval in South Australia **1.00pm** Sky Sports News **2.00** England WC Squad Announcement **3.00** Sky Sports News **6.30** Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Northamptonshire Steelbacks v Birmingham Bears. Coverage of the North Group match from The County Ground in Northampton. The Steelbacks missed out on the quarter-finals last year after finishing seventh of nine teams, but just one point off the top four. The Bears topped the group, but slumped to a heavy defeat at the hands of eventual champions Hampshire Hawks in the last eight stage of the competition
10.00 Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis and comment
10.30 Back Pages Tonight
11.00 Sky Sports News. Sporting headlines

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TalkTV

6.00am James Max. The host provides an initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. The host covers all the breaking stories to start the day **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host brings a dose of common sense to the day's big stories **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues, debates and dedicated time for viewers' calls **4.00** Rosie Wright and Kevin O'Sullivan. The hosts discuss current affairs
7.00 Jeremy Kyle. The presenter takes on the hard-hitting issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with debate and straight-talking interviews
9.00 The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the latest topics everybody is talking about
10.00 First Edition. Programme taking an energetic look at tomorrow's news, tonight
11.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored
12.00 Petrie Hosken. Bringing the latest news stories overnight **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle **2.00** Rosie Wright and Kevin O'Sullivan **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max. An insight into the day's top stories

BBC4

7.00pm The Pennine Way. Paul Rose goes white-water rafting down the River Tees (3/4)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. Buildings designed in the Scottish baronial style (4/6)
8.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. Documentary series exploring the wildlife and culture of the South East Asian nation. The first episode examines the south of the country and the role of spirituality in daily life (1/3)
9.00 Secrets of Size: Atoms to Supergalaxies. Jim Al-Khalili explores the largest known cosmic structures, including the black hole at the centre of the Milky Way (2/2)
10.00 The Long Roads. An elderly Scottish woman learns she has cancer, so she and her husband set out to visit their children to tell them the news. Drama starring Edith MacArthur and Robert Urquhart. *See Viewing Guide*
11.30 Tails You Win: The Science of Chance. Professor David Spiegelhalter gets to grips with the concept of chance and how it works
12.30am The Pennine Way. The River Tees
1.00 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain **1.30** Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise **2.30-3.30** Secrets of Size: Atoms to Supergalaxies (SL)

Talking Pictures

6.00am The Detectives (b/w) **7.00 FILM: Hollow Triumph (PG, 1948)** Thriller starring Paul Henreid (b/w) **8.35 FILM: Stormy Crossing (PG, 1958)** Mystery starring John Ireland (b/w) **10.00** The Onedin Line **11.00 FILM: It Happened Tomorrow (PG, 1944)** Fantasy starring Dick Powell (b/w) **12.45pm FILM: Burnt Evidence (PG, 1954)** Thriller starring Duncan Lamont (b/w) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00 FILM: Fanny (U, 1961)** Drama starring Leslie Caron **5.45** Look at Life
6.00 FILM: Piccadilly Incident (U, 1946) Melodrama starring Anna Neagle (b/w)
8.00 Gideon's Way. A boy flees for his life after killing an attacker, fearing the reaction of his father as much as that of the law (b/w)
9.00 FILM: Bright Hair (PG, 1997) Drama starring Emilia Fox and James Purefoy
11.15 FILM: A Private Function (15, 1984) Comedy starring Michael Palin and Liz Smith
1.10am FILM: Hostile Witness (U, 1968) Courtroom drama starring Ray Milland and Sylvia Syms **3.15 FILM: The Night Visitor (15, 1971)** Horror starring Max von Sydow **5.15** Haunted Palace **5.50** Look at Life

Film4

11.00am A Lawless Street (U, 1955) Western starring Randolph Scott **12.40pm We're No Angels (PG, 1955)** Comedy starring Humphrey Bogart (AD) **2.50 The Rare Breed (U, 1966)** Romantic comedy Western starring Maureen O'Hara and James Stewart (AD)
4.45 The Running Man (PG, 1963) Drama starring Laurence Harvey and Alan Bates (AD)
6.55 Men in Black 3 (PG, 2012) A secret agent goes back in time and teams up with a young version of his mentor to stop an alien changing history. Sci-fi comedy starring Will Smith, Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones (AD)
9.00 Bloodshot (12, 2020) A resurrected Marine with augmented agility, speed and healing capabilities tries to solve a conspiracy that robbed him of the woman he loved. Sci-fi thriller starring Vin Diesel and Guy Pearce
11.10 Daredevil (15, 2003) A blind attorney with radar-like senses leads a double life as a masked vigilante fighting evil on the streets of New York. Comic-book adventure starring Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner and Colin Farrell
1.15-4.00am Blade of the Immortal (18, 2017) Fantasy drama starring Takuya Kimura

More4

8.55am Food Unwrapped (AD) **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Escape to the Château. Following Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree as they buy a French chateau to restore (AD)
6.55 The Dog House. A nervous collie needs another dog to keep her company (AD)
7.55 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress on a ship-themed home which will stand on stilts over a marsh (2/9) (AD)
9.00 Hitler: The Lost Tapes. This episode takes a look at how Adolf Hitler used the latest propaganda techniques of photography, film and radio to mould Germany in his own image after he became chancellor in 1933 (2/4) (AD)
10.00 Holidays from Hell: Caught on Camera. Cameras reveal what can go wrong when a dream holiday turns into a nightmare. Footage include ski crashes to Brits behaving badly (AD)
11.05 24 Hours in A&E. A 35-year-old is rushed to St George's struggling to breathe (4/8) (AD)
12.05am The Emergency Ward (AD) **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

6.00am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.00** Dress to Impress (AD, SL) **8.00** One Tree Hill **9.00** Dawson's Creek **10.00** Love Bites (AD) **11.00** Dress to Impress (AD) **12.00** Britain's Got Talent **2.00pm** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Celebrity Dinner Date (AD)
6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (AD)
7.00 Superstore (AD)
8.00 Bob's Burgers. Louise has a *Wizard of Oz*-style fever dream will ill with the flu (AD)
8.30 Bob's Burgers. Teddy tries to impress his ex-wife by organising a day trip on his boat (AD)
9.00 Family Guy. Brian's cousin announces he is to tie the knot with his boyfriend (AD)
9.30 Family Guy (AD)
10.00 Family Guy (AD)
10.30 Family Guy (AD)
11.00 Family Guy (AD)
11.30 American Dad! (AD)
12.25am Bob's Burgers. Animation (AD) **1.25** Superstore (AD) **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records. The world's longest sausage chain **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.20** Wild at Heart (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.45** Foyle's War (AD)
5.55 Heartbeat. Mike starts to suspect a runaway boy is hiding out in Aidensfield. (AD)
6.55 Heartbeat. A suitcase disappears from the wreck of a crashed car — and it is not long before mysterious parcels of cash start being delivered to the residents of Aidensfield (AD)
8.00 Vera. The detective investigates the murder of a social worker and an infamous past case involving the death of a child appears to hold the key to solving the mystery (2/4) (AD)
10.00 Scott & Bailey. Part one of two. The body of a disabled man turns up in woodland and a few days later another corpse is found. With Lesley Sharp and Suranne Jones (1/8) (AD)
11.00 Scott & Bailey. Part two of two. The detectives face a wall of silence in their investigation into the grisly murders (2/8) (AD)
12.05am Wild at Heart. Double bill (AD)
2.15 Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Minder (AD, SL) **7.05** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.05** The Champions **9.05** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.15** Magnum, PI **11.20** The Saint **12.30pm** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.35** River Monsters **2.35** Magnum, PI **3.40** The Professionals (AD) **4.45** Minder (AD) **5.55** Giant Lobster Hunters. Skipper Danny struggles to find a buyer for 1,000kg of lobster (AD)
6.55 BattleBots. Five American robots take on five contenders from other countries
7.55 River Monsters. Part one of two. Jeremy Wade tries unravel what happened to the passengers of the torpedoed RMS Laconia
9.00 Isle of Man TT: Tourist Trophy. Behind-the-scenes documentary looking at the world of the top TT riders, from their preparation for TT fortnight to their rituals on race day
11.00 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage. Hard-hitting, high-flying wrestling action
12.10am FILM: Predator (15, 1987) Sci-fi thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Carl Weathers **2.15** The Protectors (SL) **2.45** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.15** Pie in the Sky **8.05** Lovejoy **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.20** May to December. Comedy series
6.00 Just Good Friends. Penny is rescued from a boring evening with her estranged husband
6.40 Last of the Summer Wine. Howard employs Clegg to look after several suspect packages
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. Wesley and Barry plan to sell hot dogs to weary hikers
8.00 Kingdom. A trawlerman seeks help with his insurance claim, while Beatrice makes a big impression as an art class's life model (3/6)
9.00 The Coroner. A teenage girl appears to return from the dead, leaving the town to wonder who is buried in her place (7/10) (AD)
10.00 New Tricks. An old friend asks Gerry to investigate his grandson's murder (1/10) (AD)
11.20 Silent Witness. Sam Ryan investigates the grisly discovery of a severed arm following a traffic collision, assisted by a new colleague
2.00am Rebellion. British forces close in on the rebels **2.55** Classic Holby City **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Hitler's Most Wanted **7.10** Shipwreck Psycho **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** World War Weird **10.00** Great British Railway Journeys **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain **11.30** Fred Dibnah's World of Steam, Steel and Stone **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **5.00** Great British Railway Journeys
6.00 Inside the Factory. A croissant factory
7.00 Bangers and Cash. A couple of Ford Capris go head-to-head at the auction (7/10)
8.00 Secrets of the London Underground. An episode exploring long-forgotten stations on the District Line, Whitechapel (5/6) (AD)
9.00 Secrets of the London Underground. Presenters Tim Dunn and Siddy Holloway explore Clapham South deep level shelter (6/6) (AD)
10.00 Bangers and Cash. Vehicles that were used in *Heartbeat* are auctioned off (6/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering (4/12) (AD)
12.00 Great British Railway Journeys. A visit to Heaton Park **1.00am** Hitler's Most Wanted **2.00** Forbidden History (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Nolan Live. Stephen Nolan presents a lively debate on stories and issues that matter to the people of Northern Ireland **11.40** I Kissed a Boy. The boys face the most dramatic Kiss Off yet and tensions reach boiling point (AD) **12.30am** I Kissed a Boy. The dinner party concludes with heated words and bruised relationships (AD) **1.20** Question of Sport (r) **1.50-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 2.15pm Politics Scotland. Political news **3.00-3.45** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore visits Keynsham recycling centre (r) **12.15am** The Edit. Entertainment news (r) **12.30** Debate Night. Topical debate on issues affecting Scotland (r) **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.35-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Blood, Sweat and Cheer. Following the disabled and non-disabled athletes of Team Wales Adaptive Abilities (r) **11.25** You Don't Look...ADHD. Laura designs a look for Kim to help visualise what living with ADHD feels like for her. Last in the series **11.35** I Kissed a Boy. The boys face a dramatic Kiss Off and tensions reach boiling point (AD) **12.20am** I Kissed a Boy **1.10-6.00** BBC News

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: 11.15pm Spotlight. Investigating the double life led by British spy Freddie Scappaticci (r) **11.45** Unspun World with John Simpson. The week's major global news stories **12.15am** Miriam Margolyes: Almost Australian. The actress sees where the wealth of the country comes from. Last in the series (r) (AD) **1.15-1.25** Gardening Together with Diarmuid Gavin (r)

STV
As ITV1 except: 10.30pm STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight. Current affairs show **11.05** Our House. Thriller starring Tuppence Middleton and Martin Compston (r) (AD) **12.00-3.00am** Teleshopping. A selection of Ideal World shows **5.20-6.00** Night Vision

BBC Scotland
7.00pm Scotland's Biggest Families. Families with 12 and 13 children (r) **8.00** Granite Harbour. Thriller starring Romario Simpson (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City. Jessie returns to Shieldinch (AD) **10.30** Debate Night **11.30-12.00am** Stevens & McCarthy (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.10** Bing (r) **5.15** Leum is Danns (Jump and Dance) (r) **5.30** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.35** Abadas (r) **5.45** Pip & Posy (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Kung Fu Panda (r) **6.20** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles (r) **6.35** Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin (r) **7.00** An t-Eilean (From Skye with Love) (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Eilean Mo Ghaoil (From Lewis with Love) (r) **9.00** Thugainn dhan Phark/Park Bar Life (r) **10.00** Mach à Seo! **10.30** Women's Sport 360 (r) **11.05** Binneas (r) **11.30** FUNC (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Halibalw **6.15** Twt (r) **6.30** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **6.40** Amser Maith Maith yn Ôl (r) **7.00** Ty Mêl (r) **7.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindau **7.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **7.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **7.45** Cacamwnci **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **8.20** Stiw (r) **8.35** Nico Nôg (r) **8.45** Llan-ar-goll-en (r) **9.00** Wibli Sochyn y Mochyn (r) **9.10** Misho (r) **9.20** Yr Ysgol (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Sigldigwt (r) **10.00** Ty Mêl (r) **10.05** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **10.15** Cacamwnci (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd **1.55** News; Weather **2.00** Live Urdd: Defod y Cadeirio **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd **6.00** Copsan (AD) **6.15** Cynefin (r) **6.30** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Highlights of the day's events **9.25** News; Weather **9.30** Eirys: Mam yr Urdd (r) **10.30** Pa Fath o Bobl un Mewn Miliwn (r) **11.00** Ar y Dibyn (r) **11.30-1.00am** Eisteddfod yr Urdd (r)

MindGames

Poker Byron Jacobs

Ace-high flops

An ace-high flop is any flop that contains an ace along with two random cards, eg A-K-9 and A-6-4 are both ace-high flops. It is important to know how to play these flops as, statistically, they are the most common type. If you think about it, there is only one 4-high flop: 4-3-2. Moving on to 5-high flops there are a few more (actually three) but still not many. As we climb the ladder to 6-high, 7-high flops etc, it is obvious that there is more "room" underneath the high card and, consequently, more flops. This maxes out with the ultimate high card – the ace.

Ace-high flops play differently from other flops as this is a flop where players often have what are known as *polarised ranges*. A polarised range is one that heavily features very strong and very weak hands with fewer middling ones. The reason is that on an ace-high flop a holding of A-x is often strong and isn't that likely to be overtaken. Conversely, non A-x hands are generally rather weak because of the precise danger that they face an A-x holding.

Preflop play is very important. If one player raised and another just called then an ace-high flop is hugely favourable to the raiser as they are marked with the stronger preflop hand, which means more A-x combinations. This is called a *range advantage* and a range advantage should often be leveraged by strong betting.

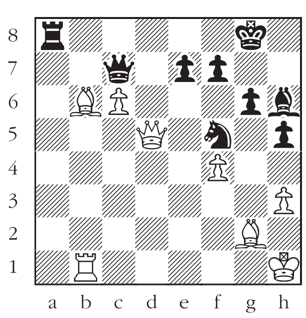
Let's assume an initial raiser (Alice) has 5-5 and gets called by a player (Bob) holding 10-9. The flop is A-10-7, which is terrible for Alice as the value of her fives has fallen off a cliff. However, in principle, she holds a great deal of A-x in her range so she will often be able to bet heavily postflop. Bob has a pair of tens, which is beating Alice's actual hand but (assuming the turn and river do not help) he will be hard pressed to call big bets all the way to the river due to the danger of running into A-x.

A decent way to play as the aggressor on ace-high flops is to bet hard with your strong hands (generally meaning A-x) and very weak hands (eg Q-J on an A-9-7 flop). When you hold a middling hand be more inclined to check. So if you have A-5 on a flop of A-J-7 it is reasonable to check. The point is that even though you have a pair of aces, your kicker is weak and you are crushed if Villain has a stronger A-x. Meanwhile, when Villain does not have an ace you are in little danger of being overtaken and so give Villain the chance to bluff or make a modest hand so you can pick up a bet or two on the turn and river.

Checking is again reasonable with K-K on an A-7-5 flop. However, with the weaker 8-8 you should, perhaps surprisingly, be more inclined to bet. The point is that against hands such as K-J and Q-10 your eights are vulnerable (Villain can make a pair beating 8-8) and need protection.

For more puzzles, including Mini Sudoku, extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki go to page 10

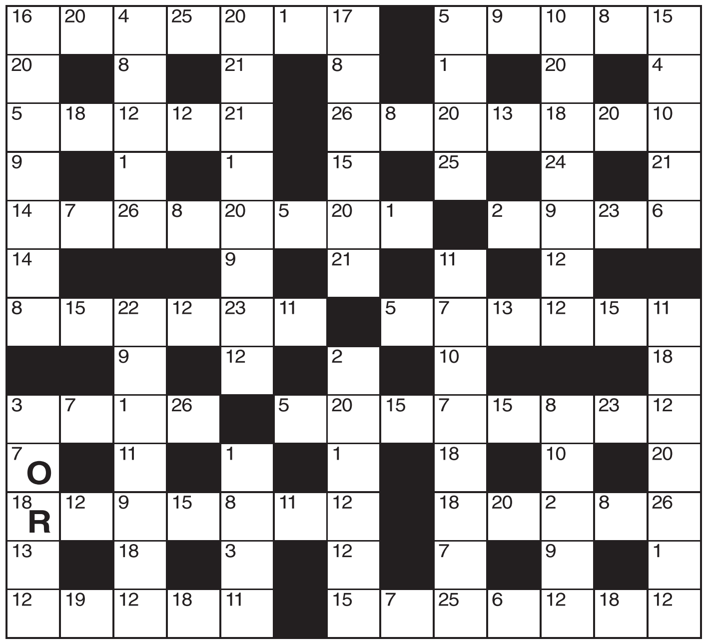
Winning Move



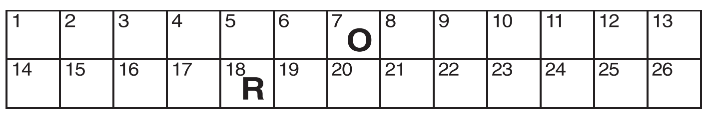
Black to play.
This position is from Sanket-Johansson, Fagernes 2023.

White may well have been quite pleased with his position here. Although he is a pawn down he has a huge passed pawn on c6 that seems destined to cause Black no end of trouble, especially as he is about to dislodge the blockader – the black queen. However, Black turned the tables with a fine counter. Can you see it?

Codeword No 4915



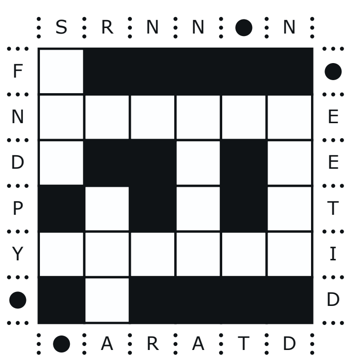
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N ~~O~~ P Q ~~R~~ S T U V W X Y Z

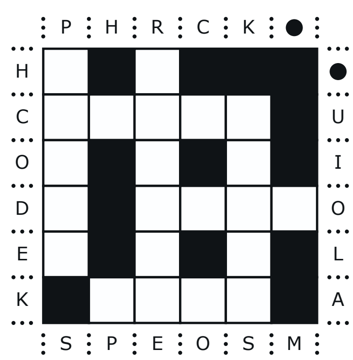


Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

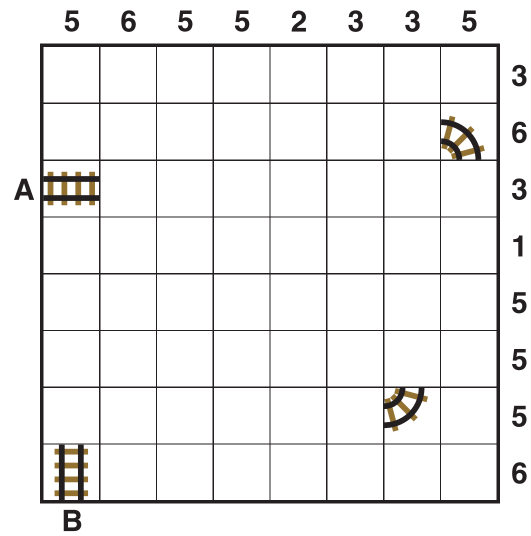
Lexica No 6895 No 6896





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 1950



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Light touch in work is subtle (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Duke one cheated (4)

_ _ _ _

3 Fish, duck and sheep returned (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Dog born and made to be nasty? (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Merchants spread across English city (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	C	D	D	E
E	E	E	H	I	I	K	L
M	M	M	N	N	N	N	O
O	R	R	R	S	S	S	T

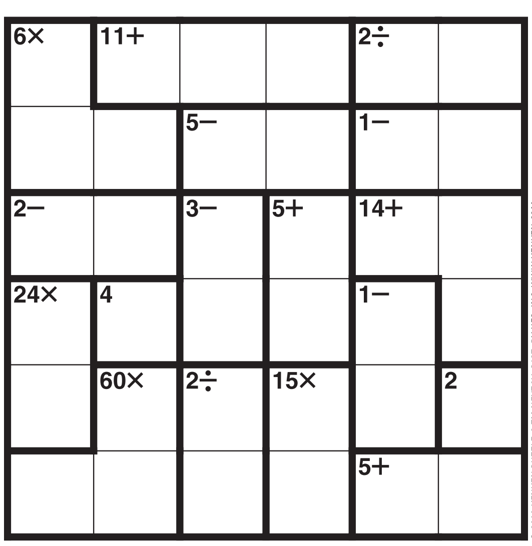
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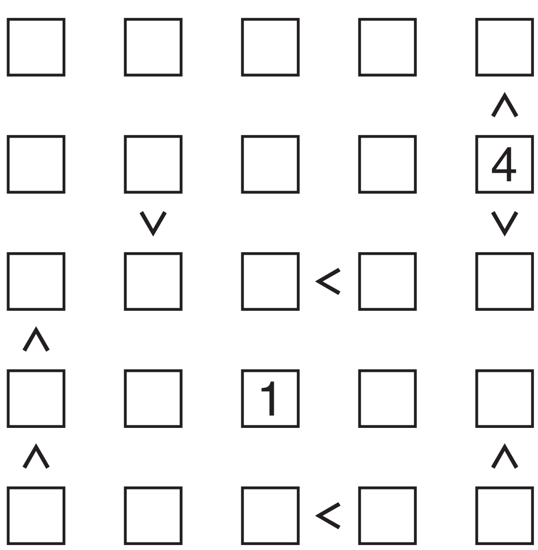
What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames?
Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

KenKen Medium No 5907



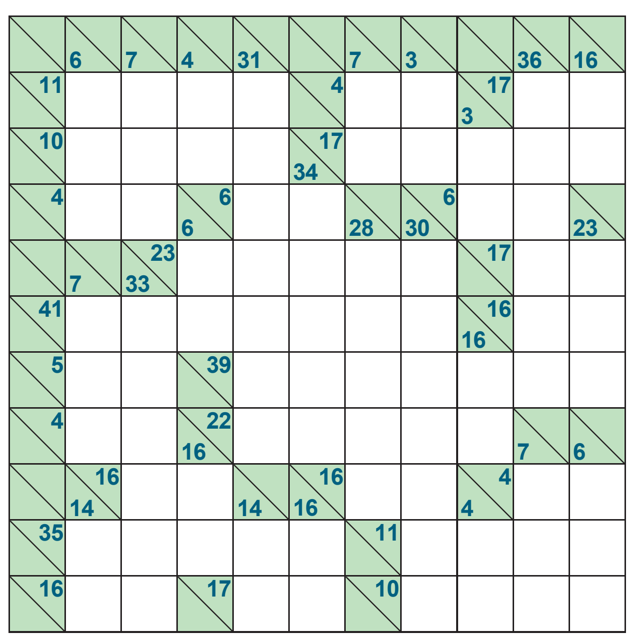
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4488



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3447

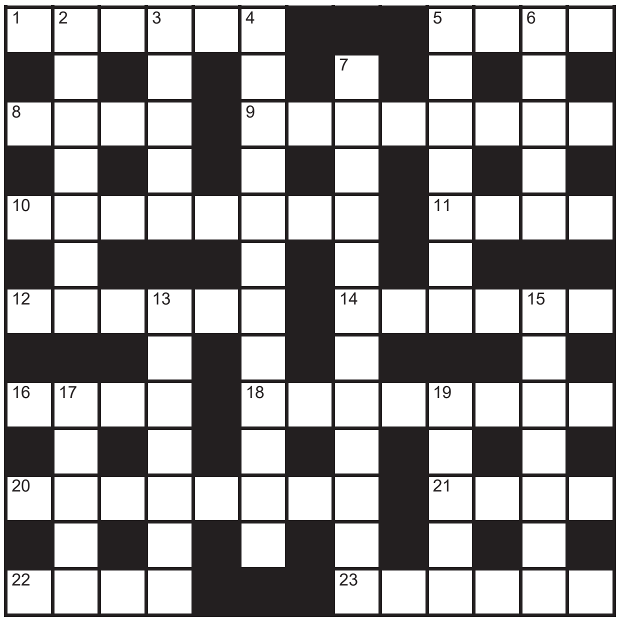


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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MindGames

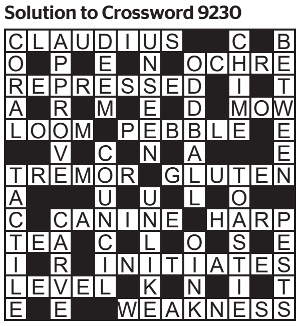
times2 Crossword No 9231



Across
1 Axilla (6)
5 Military land force (4)
8 Verdi opera (4)
9 Disaffect (8)
10 Helping (a criminal) (8)
11 Skewwhiff (4)
12 Shop-front canopy (6)
14 Lend a hand (6)
16 Vast period of time (4)
18 Egotistical (8)
20 Scottish city (8)
21 Female relative (4)
22 Parched (4)
23 Self-possession, poise (6)

Down
2 Colourful atmospheric phenomenon (7)
3 Intertwined length of hair (5)
4 See-through sheet used for copying artwork (7,5)
5 Plants lasting for a single season only (7)
6 Engine of a vehicle (5)
7 Mutually comprehensible means to communicate (6,6)
13 Disregarded (7)
15 Word of similar meaning (7)
17 Smouldering coal (5)
19 Knotty growth on a tree (5)

Solution to Crossword 9230



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

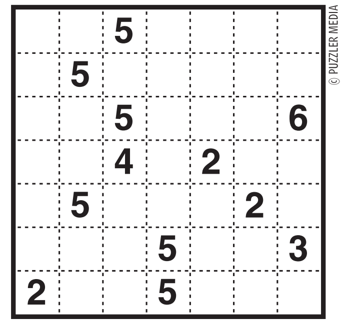
Brain Trainer

EASY 2 | CUBE IT | + 13 | x 4 | 2/3 OF IT | − 11 | ÷ 9 | SQUARE IT | + 74 | ÷ 11 | ANSWER

MEDIUM 38 | + 97 | ÷ 9 | SQUARE IT | − 47 | 1/2 OF IT | + 175 | ÷ 8 | TREBLE IT | + 284 | ANSWER

HARDER 43 | TREBLE IT | + 586 | 4/5 OF IT | − 96 | x 5 | + 1/2 OF IT | ÷ 21 | 4/5 OF IT | x 9 | ANSWER

Cell Blocks No 4798



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

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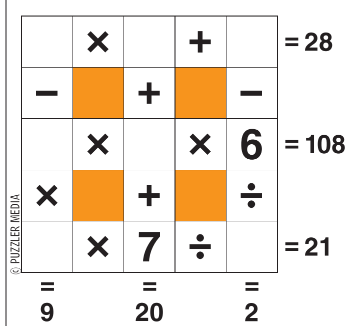
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 14 words, average; 19, good; 25, very good; 31, excellent

Yesterday's answers
cod, code, coder, come, comer, cor, cord, core, corm, cred, credo, cru, crud, crude, cud, cue, cum, cur, curd, cure, decor, **decorum**, douce, eco, ecru, ecu, mucro, orc, rec, roc

Set Square No 3450

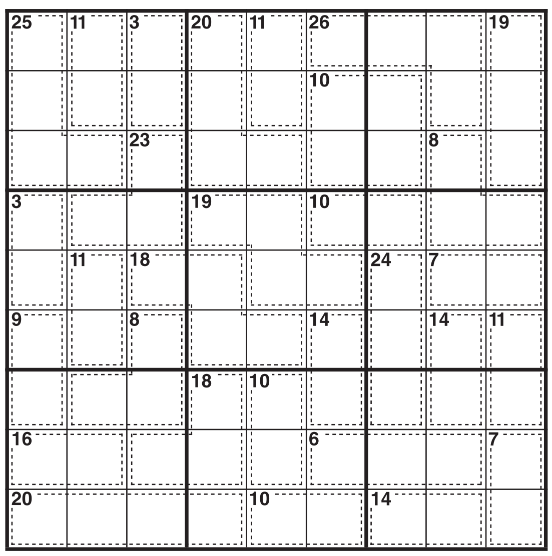


Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

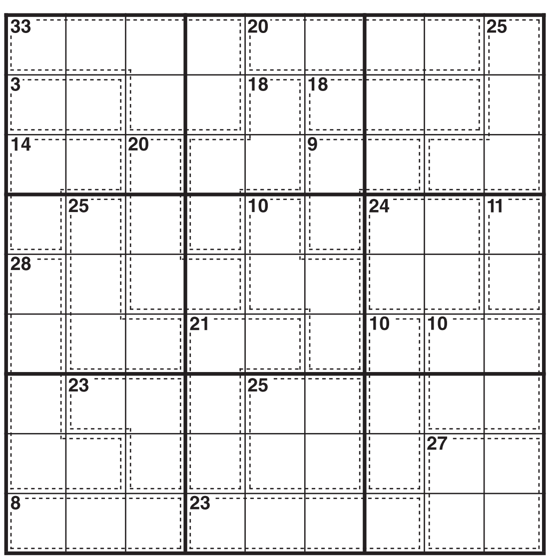
Please note, BODMAS does not apply

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Killer Tricky No 8901



Killer Deadly No 8902



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Top Tens
A. Bidding
10. Think "Zone"
(i) Part-score (below game)

There are three bidding zones: part-score, game and slam. The sooner the partnership know which zone they're in, the better.

Here's a typical part-score/game confusion.

"I was just trying to sign off."

"Oh, I thought you were trying for game."

Take the (uncontested) auction 1♥-1NT-2♥. That 2♥ rebid is weak, not inviting game, playing to make a part-score. What makes it so?

The answer is that the 2♥ rebid follows a limit bid (1NT — showing 6-9 points). If opener had game aspirations, she'd rebid 3♥.

Take the (uncontested) auction 1♥-1♠-1NT-2♦. Responder's 2♦ is not in any way game-going. Opener has made a limit bid (1NT showing 15-17), so responder knows whether game values are present. Her 2♦ bid is purely a rescue bid.

How about the (uncontested) auction 1♥-2♥-2NT? With hearts bid and supported, 2♥ is an eminently sensible contract. If opener has no game aspirations, she will pass 2♥. The fact that she bids on implies game interest. Facing responder's weakness (6-8 or maybe nine points), opener must have genuine game interest ie 17-18 points (not 15 or an ordinary 16).

How about the (uncontested) auction 1♥-1♠-2♦-2♥-2♠? Opener has moved over a playable contract (2♥); her 2♠ bid must show game interest (and a 3♠5♥4♦1♣ shape).

Dealer: North, Vulnerability: Neither

	North	
	♠ 53 ♥ Q53 ♦ AQ4 ♣ AK543	
West ♠ Q10 ♥ K98 ♦ J10932 ♣ Q97	N / W E / S	**East** ♠ AJ72 ♥ A10 ♦ K85 ♣ 10862
	South ♠ K9864 ♥ J7642 ♦ 76 ♣ J	

S	W	N	E
		1♣	Pass
1♠ (1)	Pass	1NT(2)	Pass
2♥ (3)	Pass	Pass(4)	Pass

(1) Winning bridge to scrape up light responses with shapely hands. South chooses 1♠ (rather than 1♥) on the "high five now, low five next time" principle.
(2) Showing 15-17.
(3) Rescue bid, showing 5♠-4/5♥.
(4) Absolutely right. The only bid North would ever make here is to go back to 2♠ (with 3♠-3♥), in case South was 5♠-4♥.

West led ♦J. Declarer correctly rose with ♦A and cashed ♣AK, shedding ♦7. She then led ♠3 to ♠K (winning — good) and conceded ♠4.

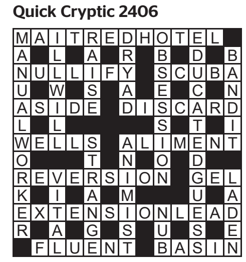
West won ♠Q and brightly switched to ♥8. East won ♥A, led back ♥10, and West won ♥K. On this second heart, declarer crucially unblocked dummy's ♥Q, so she could win the third heart in hand to play on spades.

At trick eight, West led ♥9. Winning ♥J in hand, declarer led ♠6. East won ♠J and led ♣10. Declarer ruffed and led ♠8. East won ♠A and led ♣8 but declarer ruffed and scored the last trick with ♠9. Eight tricks made — but only just.

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Solutions

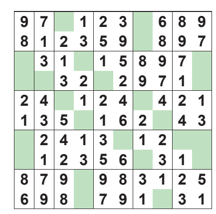
Quick Cryptic 2406



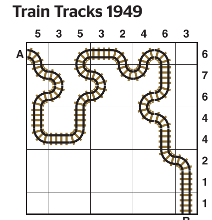
Codeword 4914



Kakuro 3446



Train Tracks 1949



Sudoku 14,076

6	9	8	5	7	2	4	3	1
4	5	2	9	3	1	6	8	7
7	1	3	4	6	8	9	2	5
1	4	5	8	2	6	7	9	3
8	2	7	3	1	9	5	4	6
3	6	9	7	5	4	8	1	2
9	3	6	1	4	5	2	7	8
5	7	4	2	8	3	1	6	9
2	8	1	6	9	7	3	5	4

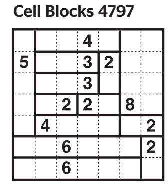
Tetonor 365

70	32	290	28
67 + 3	1 x 32	145 x 2	13 + 15
39	201	20	147
4 + 35	67 x 3	10 x 2	145 + 2
160	12	140	33
40 x 4	6 + 6	35 x 4	32 + 1
12	195	36	44
10 + 2	15 x 13	6 x 6	40 + 4

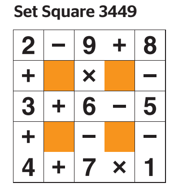
Sudoku 14,077

2	3	5	6	1	8	7	9	4
4	6	8	7	9	2	3	1	5
9	1	7	5	3	4	6	2	8
1	7	6	3	4	9	5	8	2
8	2	9	1	7	5	4	6	3
5	4	3	2	8	6	9	7	1
6	8	1	9	5	3	2	4	7
3	9	4	8	2	7	1	5	6
7	5	2	4	6	1	8	3	9

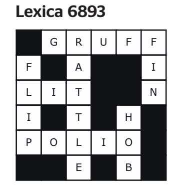
Cell Blocks 4797



Set Square 3449



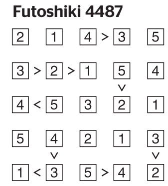
Lexica 6893



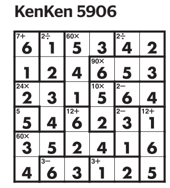
Sudoku 14,078

3	4	9	8	1	2	5	6	7
1	2	7	5	3	6	9	8	4
6	5	8	9	7	4	1	2	3
5	8	1	7	4	9	2	3	6
2	6	4	3	8	5	7	9	1
9	7	3	2	6	1	8	4	5
8	1	6	4	9	7	3	5	2
4	9	2	1	5	3	6	7	8
7	3	5	6	2	8	4	1	9

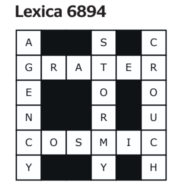
Futoshiki 4487



KenKen 5906



Lexica 6894



Killer 8899

1	4	2	6	5	9	7	8	3
6	7	3	2	8	1	9	5	4
9	8	5	7	3	4	6	2	1
8	5	1	3	9	7	4	6	2
7	3	4	5	2	6	8	1	9
2	9	6	1	4	8	5	3	7
4	2	8	9	1	5	3	7	6
3	6	9	8	7	2	1	4	5
5	1	7	4	6	3	2	9	8

Killer 8900

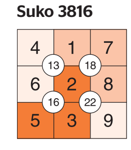
2	4	7	1	5	8	6	9	3
8	1	6	2	3	9	5	4	7
5	3	9	7	4	6	1	2	8
6	8	3	5	9	4	2	7	1
9	5	1	3	2	7	4	8	6
7	2	4	6	8	1	9	3	5
3	6	5	4	7	2	8	1	9
1	9	2	8	6	3	7	5	4
4	7	8	9	1	5	3	6	2

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Rome
2 Eerily
3 Eating
4 Airlift
5 Checkmate

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Kiss
2 Done
3 Marlin
4 Doberman
5 Manchester

Suko 3816



Brain Trainer
Easy 9
Medium 383
Harder 1,224

Word watch

Paludal (b) Growing in marshy ground (*OED*)
Gegenschein (b) A faint glow in the night sky at a point opposite the sun (*Collins*)
Sonse (c) Good luck (*Chambers*)

Chess — Winning Move

1 ... Qxb6! wins as 2 Rxb6 Ra1+ 3 Bf1 (3 Kh2 Bxf4 mate) 3 ... Rxf1+ 4 Kg2 (4 Kh2 Bxf4+ 5 Kg2 Ne3 is a pretty mate) 4 ... Ne3+ 5 Kg3 and now 5 ... Nxd5 wins easily but even better is 5 ... Bxf4+ 6 Kh4 Rf3! which forces mate

Quiz

1 Marie Antoinette **2** BBC **3** Roald Dahl **4** Holly Willoughby **5** Lemmings **6** *The Blue Boy* **7** TikTok **8** Caligula **9** Madame de Pompadour **10** Canal du Midi **11** Toto **12** Larb or laab or laap **13** Richard Halliburton **14** Dave Brailsford **15** Julia Donaldson

THE TIMES

31.05.23

MindGames

For extra puzzles
See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Paludal
a Of grand proportions
b Growing in marshy ground
c A knightly champion

Gegenschein
a A school of abstract art
b A faint glow in the night sky
c Foolish talk

Sonse
a To cook in a marinade
b A bracket for mounting a candle
c Good luck

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Difficult No 14,079

							2	
				5	4	7		
		8	7			4		9
		4		9		1	6	
	3		4		7		9	
	2			3				
	5	3	1			8		
1			2	7				
		9						

Fiendish No 14,080

					8			
	5	4				9		
1					6		2	3
		3	6				7	
	6	5	8	3	2			
		9	4				8	
9					4		3	7
	7	2				4		
					1			

Super fiendish No 14,081

5								
	9		5	4				
	4	6			8			
	2	9				4		
7			4				9	
	6			1			2	
8					5	6		
			7		1	3	8	
		1		9				2

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 Founded in 1788 by pioneers to the Ohio Country, the city of Marietta was named after which queen of France?

2 From 1992 to 2000, John Birt served as director-general of which broadcaster?

3 Who wrote the 1979 short story collection *Tales of the Unexpected?*

4 Which *This Morning* presenter launched the lifestyle brand Wylde Moon in 2021?

5 Which small rodents in the subfamily Arvicolinae do not, in fact, commit mass suicide?

6 Which Thomas Gainsborough painting inspired Jamie Foxx's valet costume in the film *Django Unchained?*


ALAMY
15

7 Montana has become the first US state to ban which Chinese-owned social media app?

8 Which film, starring Malcolm McDowell as the titular Roman emperor, was called a "moral holocaust" by *Variety?*

9 Royal architect Ange-Jacques Gabriel designed the château Le Petit Trianon for which mistress of Louis XV?

10 Opened in 1681, which French waterway was originally named the Canal royal en Languedoc?

11 Which American rock band composed most of the soundtrack for David Lynch's 1984 film version of *Dune?*

12 Which meat salad is the national dish of Laos?

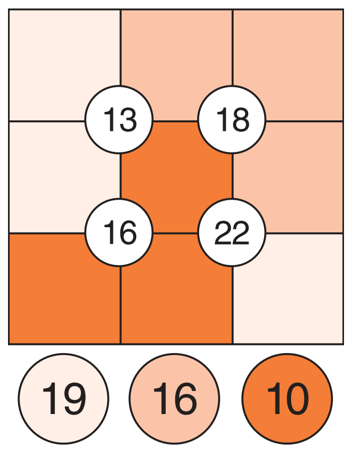
13 Which US travel writer disappeared in 1939 while sailing the Chinese junk Sea Dragon across the Pacific Ocean?

14 Knighted in 2013, which British cycling coach is team principal of the Ineos Grenadiers?

15 The 2011-2013 children's laureate, which English writer is pictured?

Answers on page 15

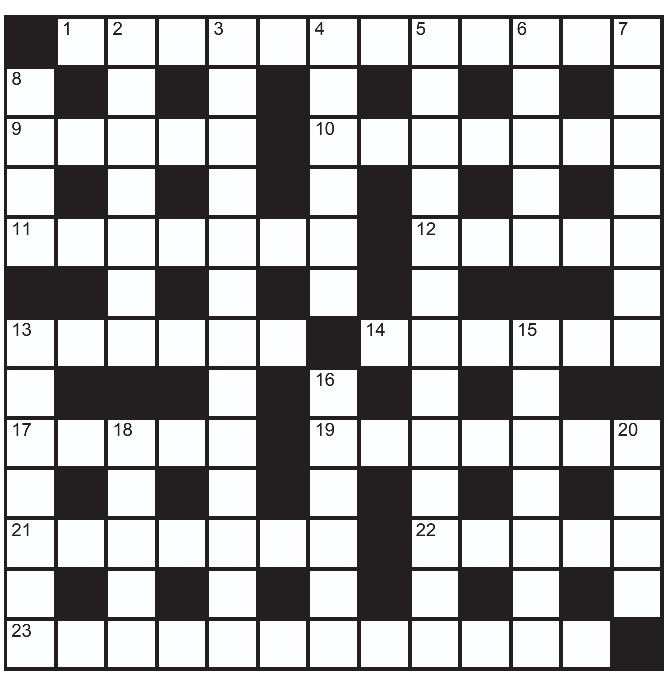
Suko
No 3816



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2407 by Jalna



Across
1 Means of storing data that oddly features in new genetic map (8,4)
9 Material found in many longboats (5)
10 Old boy turning raucous in town (7)
11 Entire novel about a student (7)
12 Insurers ultimately await judgement to pay out (5)
13 Better's first, complete spread? (6)
14 Almost spear a type of antelope (6)
17 Area of coastal land is rented out (5)
19 Football club magazine (7)
21 Amounts of liquid are finally extracted from big vessels (7)
22 Revolutionary piece of seminal Japanese art (5)
23 Official statement in pack concerning housing contract (5,7)

Down
2 Finally eating last bit of cheese, if nothing else (2,5)
3 Info continues to be modified, being unable to be passed on (3-10)
4 Aspirin possibly that's finally found under furniture item (6)
5 Thick cream's splashed around a small, festive treat (9,4)
6 Be entertaining and make up several epigrams for starters (5)
7 Creature dwelling primarily in eastern China (7)
8 Outfit including new woolly scarf, perhaps (4)
13 Mention book on call (5,2)
15 A tune is played for family members (7)
16 Harry lashes out (6)
18 French city badly protected by the French! (5)
20 German song told a story (4)

*Yesterday's solution on page 15**

T GIFTS



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